# style at home

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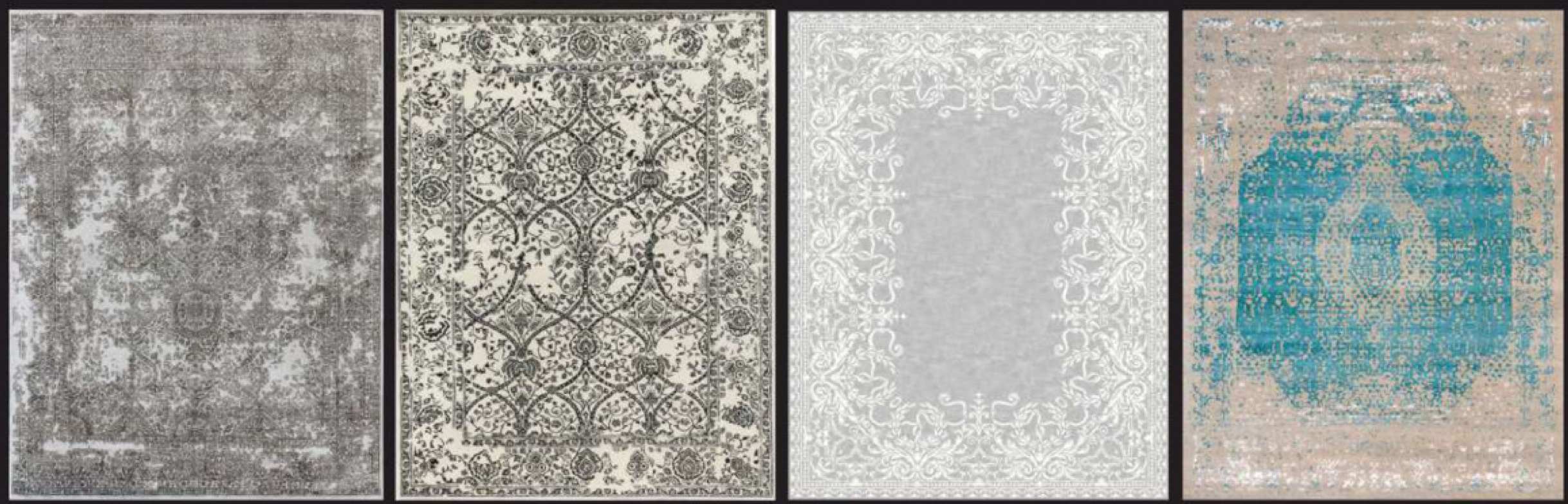

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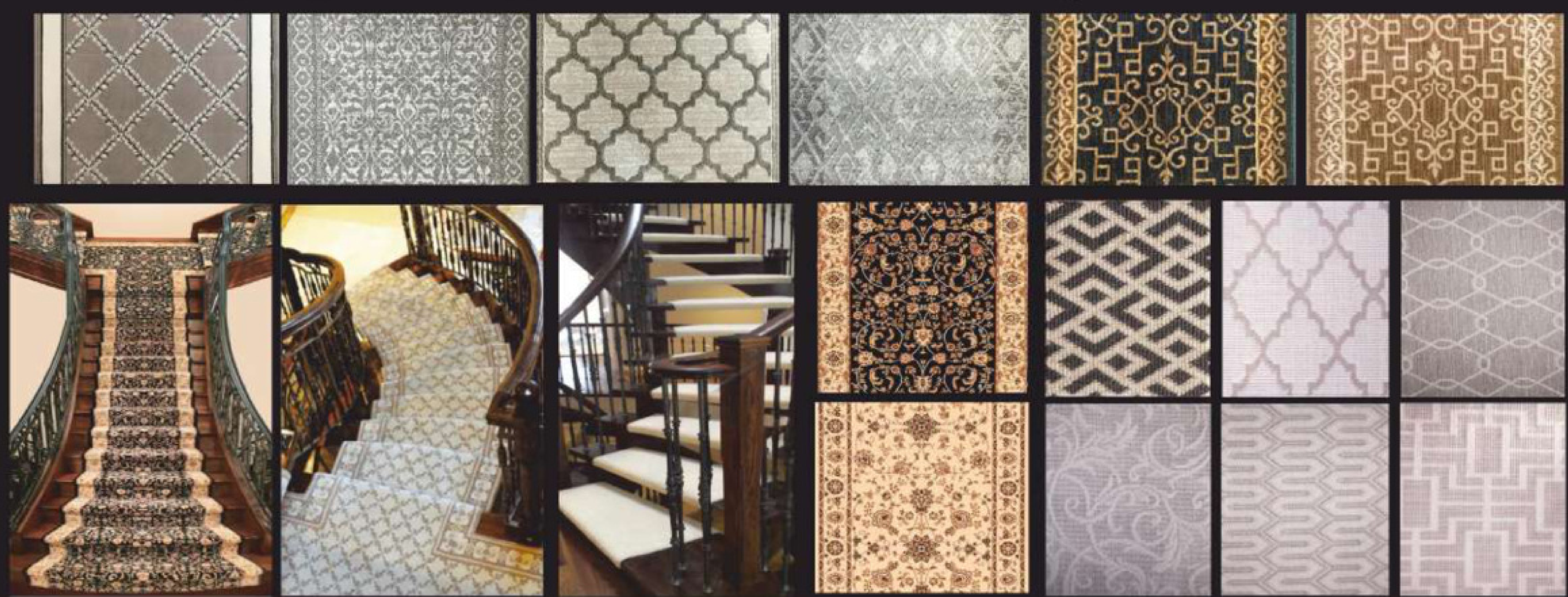

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FEBRUARY 2015

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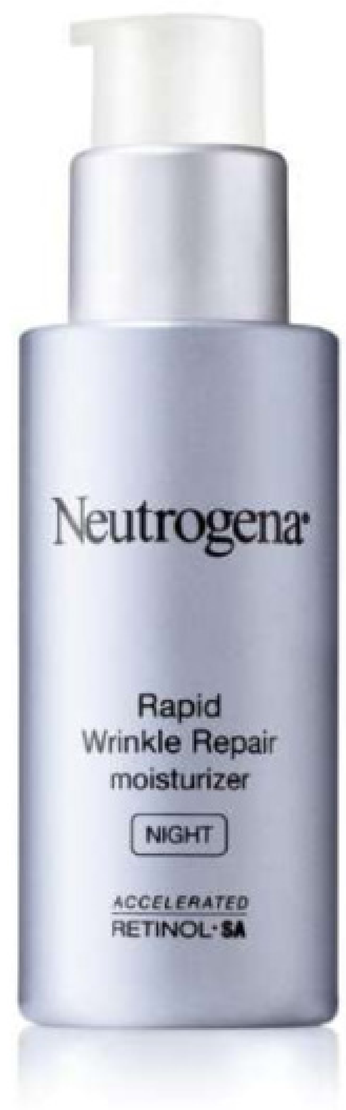


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# HORSING around

There are many people in the world who can keep a safe distance between work and home, using one as a restorative counterpoint to the other. Readers of this magazine know that I am not one of them. For me, work and home, my co-workers, family and friends all blend together into a wonderful circle of love, inspiration and support that keeps me going. So it should come as no surprise that my twin passions for decorating and horses should, at some point, meet. In fact, these worlds collided twice in the past few months.

I've had a lifelong love of horses, ever since I was seven years old and a Shetland pony named Flicka came to my birthday party to give rides to all the kids. I thought my parents were giving her to me as a gift and that she was there to stay, so I was devastated when she was loaded up on her horse trailer at the end of the day. Now I do own a horse, named Fleur Foncée, and I believe that my little dark flower is pure magic. She got to share the spotlight with me a couple of months ago, when she made her TV debut on an episode of CBC's *Steven and Chris*. The crew came out to the barn to film us for a piece on equine style, and Fleur was the star of the show.

Then I was asked by Beauti-Tone Paint to refresh the Style at Home Country Colour Collection with a few new palettes. Fleur was my inspiration for one of the colours, and I think my choice of a rich, strong brown hue does her proud. You can see the Fleur Foncée shade on page 24, and the entire Style at Home Country Colour Collection II in Home Hardware stores now.

It was definitely interesting to see these two hitherto separate areas of my life – kind of the last holdouts – come together so neatly. My days may not have a lot of structure, but when all the threads mingle into a multi-faceted, passionate, eclectic and, yes, sometimes chaotic existence, I know I wouldn't have it any other way.

Erin

**Erin McLaughlin** erin@styleathome.com
twitter.com/erinmclaughlin1

**My beautiful little dark flower, Fleur Foncée, gets dolled up for her TV debut on CBC's *Steven and Chris*.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, EVAAN KHERAJ (PORTRAIT); HAIR & MAKEUP, MICHELLE ROSEN/JUDY INC; BLUE BREECHES, STRUCK APPAREL; JACKET, STRIPED HORSE BLANKET, EXERCISE SHEET, HORSEWARE IRELAND; SWEATER, ICEBREAKER; BRIDLE, BREASTPLATE, SADDLE, BRUNO DELGRANGE; SADDLE PAD, ECOGOLD; GLOVES, SSG

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. *Style at Home* is published monthly by Transcontinental Media G.P., a division of Transcontinental Printing 2005 G.P., www.tc.tc, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7; 416-733-7600. In U.S.A., 300 International Drive, Ste. 200, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221. Contents © 2015 Transcontinental Media G.P. All rights reserved. Single-copy newsstand price: $5.99. Subscriptions: Canada: one year $29.95 (plus taxes). U.S.: one year $67.95 payable in advance. Other countries: one year $177.95 payable in advance. Send subscription orders to: *Style at Home*, Sub. Dept., P.O. Box 814, Markham Station, Markham, Ont. L3P 7Z6. Send address changes to the post office box address above, including the mailing label from your latest issue, visit www.styleathome.com or call 905-946-0910. Allow eight weeks for changes. CANADIAN POSTMASTER: Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to *Style at Home*, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7. Publications Mail Agreement 40064924, PAP Registration 08282. Postage paid at Gateway in Mississauga, Ont. U.S. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Style at Home*, Box 766, Buffalo, N.Y. 14240-0766. Periodicals postage paid at Buffalo, N.Y. USPS731-350. Download the *Style at Home* app for iPad on the App Store. Digital editions are also available on Zinio, Kobo, Press Reader, Nook and Google Play Newsstand. PRIVACY POLICY: On occasion, we make our subscriber list available to carefully screened organizations whose products or services might interest you. If you prefer that we not share your name and address (postal and/or email), you can easily remove your name from our mailing list by reaching us at any of the listed contact points. You can review our complete Privacy Policy at www.styleathome.com. Printed at Transcontinental RBW Graphics, a division of Transcontinental Printing 2005 G.P., 2049 20th St. E., Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5R2. Distributed by Coast to Coast. All reproduction requests must be made to COPIBEC (paper reproductions at 800-717-2022), or CEDROM-SNi (electronic reproductions at reproduction@cedrom-sni.com). ISSN: 1915-8998.

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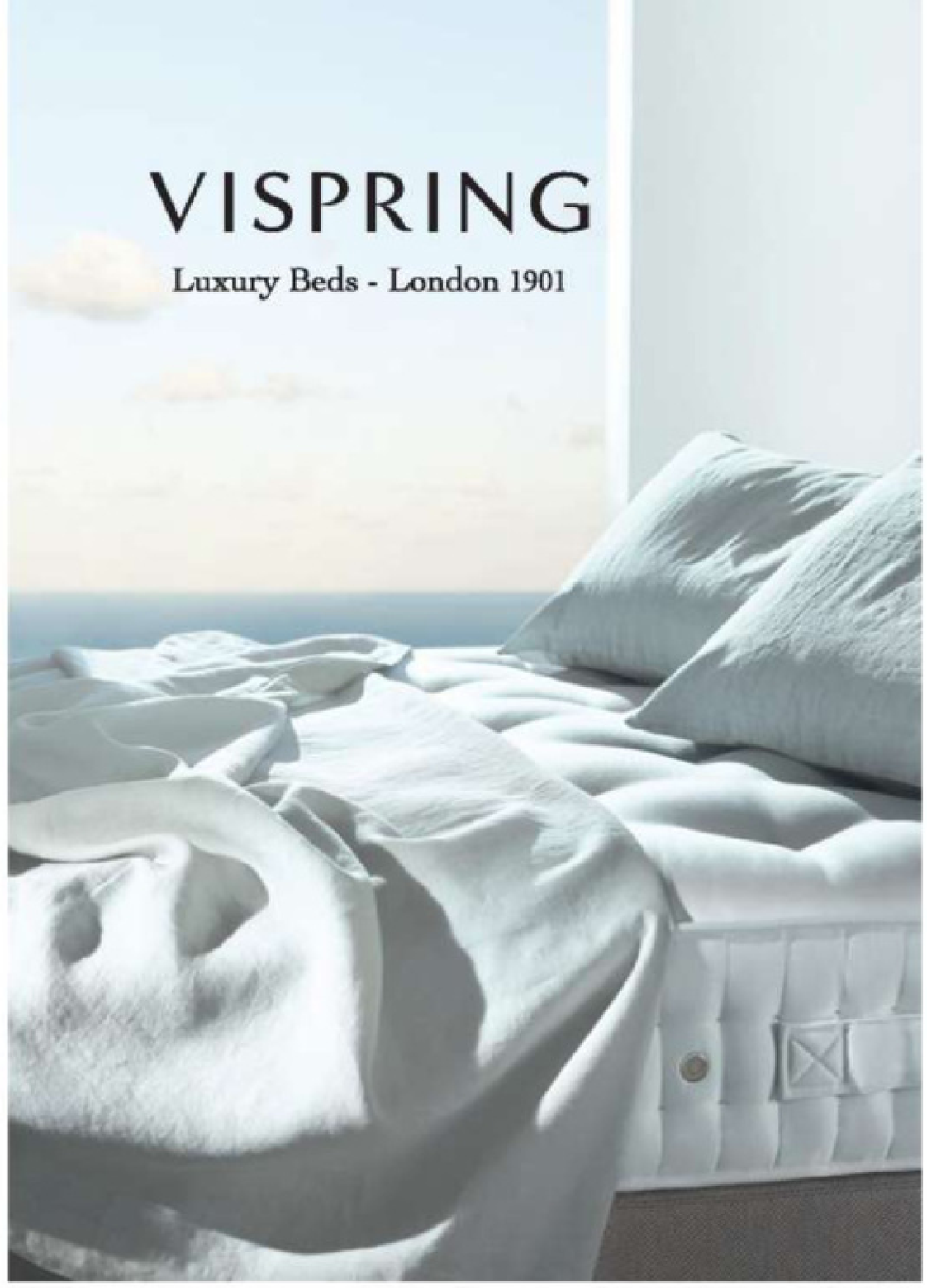


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## GET SOCIAL

How I'm spending most of the day #lazy #saturday #cozy #styleathome **@SBHALWANI**

### HOLIDAY JINGLE

I was so surprised to see that one of my favourite Christmas songs, "The Bell That Couldn't Jingle" by Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass, was on executive editor Suzanne Moutis's holiday playlist in "The Savvy Hostess Guide" (December 2014, page 71). Hooray! The only other person I know who has ever heard of that song is my sister. This made my day.

**MARY SMITH,** VIA EMAIL

Currently prepping to decorate a kitchen and dining room set. Love the @StyleAtHome video on how to fold napkins! **@MARIELACAMPO**

The January 2015 @StyleAtHome has already been thoroughly bookmarked. Going to try that cinnamon bread recipe, with raisins. **@RENEESWILLIAMS**

### DIVINE DESIGN

I just finished browsing through the December 2014 issue of *Style at Home*. I have folded down so many pages that feature easy and beautiful ideas to help me decorate my home for the holidays. Every year I try to decorate a little differently and always look to your magazine for inspiration. Thank you for helping me out!

**LESLIE,** MONCTON, NB

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# behind the scenes

Here are some fun moments captured by our editors this month. Keep up with what we're doing by following us on Instagram @styleathome.

LIKE

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin designed the Horseware Ireland VIP Riders Lounge at The Royal Horse Show in Toronto with help from Nespresso, Madeleines and IKEA. @styleathomeeditor

These riding helmet and boot cookies from Madeleines, a boutique bakery in Toronto, are almost too adorable to eat!

LIKE

Trend alert! This lavish chair at the Trump residences perfectly paired with design editor Stacy Begg's leopard-print shoes. @stacybegg

LIKE

The *Style at Home* crew poses with buyers and general managers Jamie and Andrew Metrick of Toronto's Elte Market. Learn more about the new showroom on page 22! @missmlindsay

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Senior web editor Natalie DiScala (right) and web editor Elaine Song (far right) tell us what's happening online this month.

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TOPIC: Home Makeovers
WHEN: February 18, 2015, 12 to 1 p.m. EST

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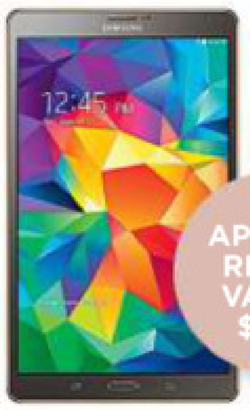

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## ON THE TABLET

**Check out Style at Home on your tablet for enhanced features, including additional photos, in depth how-tos for recipes and crafts and much more. Available now on the iTunes store.**

## WE'RE BLOGGING!

**Don't miss posts by assistant editor BRITTANY DEVENYI!** She'll share behind-the-scenes moments from parties and events, plus her favourite new products. Follow along at styleathome.com/blog, as well as on Twitter and Instagram (@brittdevenyi).

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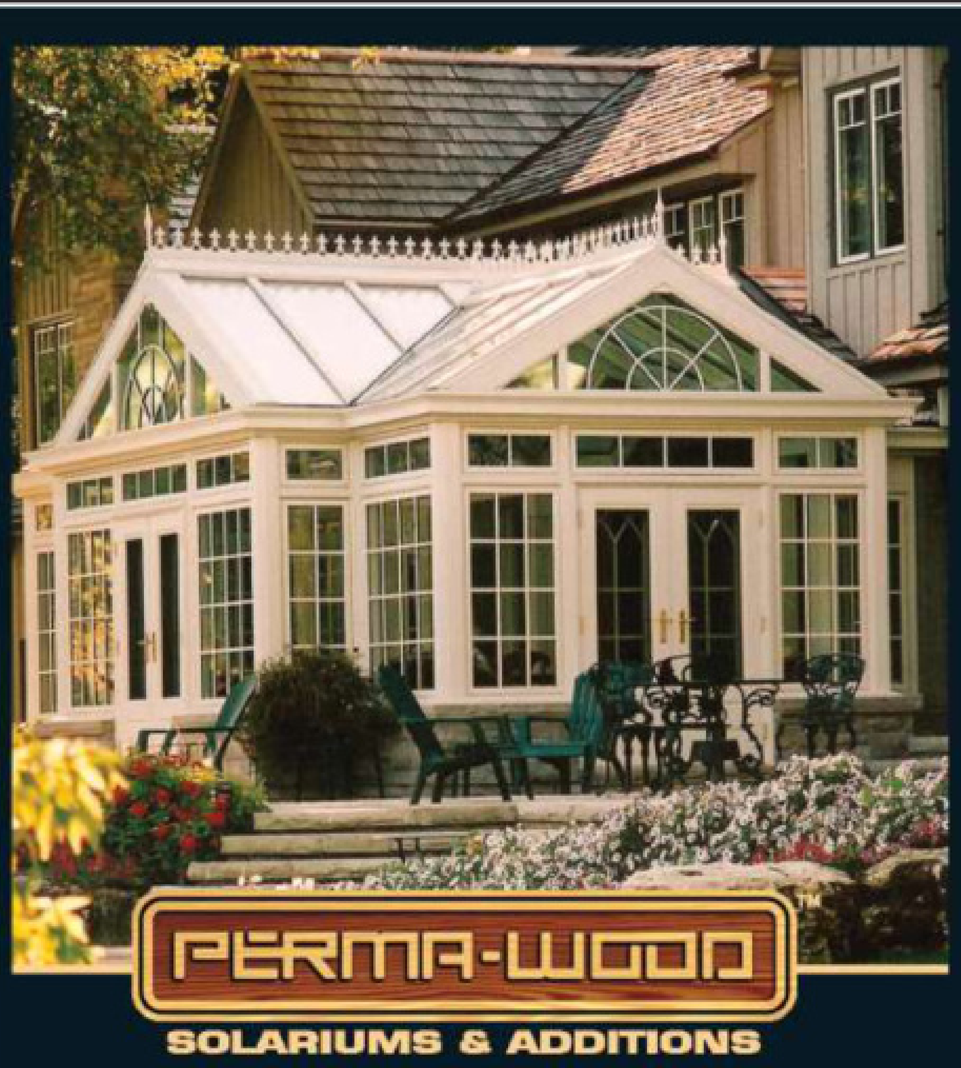

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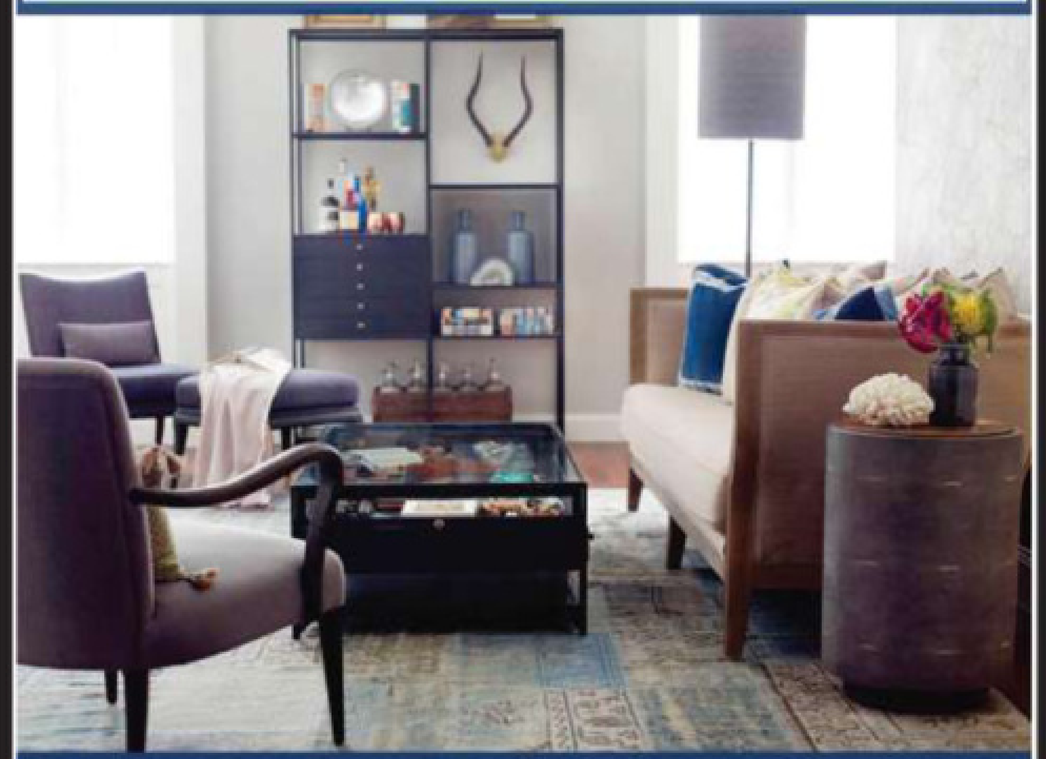

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Breathe Happy

**PRODUCER** MORGAN LINDSAY
**TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

Managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien creates a cozy place to rest your feet using an old cable-knit sweater as upholstery fabric. The vintage footstool's shape lends interest, while the matte dove grey paint on its legs modernizes it.

**ARMCHAIR, RUG,** Elte, elte.com;
**TOSS CUSHION,** Indigo, indigo.ca.

**Give new life to your favourite worn out cable-knit sweater!**

# PROJECT *of the* MONTH

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

# THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

Four home-outfitting brands share the inspiration behind their latest ventures and might just inspire you to add that finishing touch to your reno – be it furniture, fragrance or paint.

WE ASKED

**JAMIE & ANDREW METRICK,**
BUYERS & GENERAL MANAGERS, ELTE MARKET

**1 What is Elte Market, and how did the concept come about?** We are well aware that if you're not immersed in the interior design world, it can seem challenging to navigate. We wanted to create an approachable market-style showroom that caters to first-time homebuyers who are new to decorating and furnishing a space.

### ONE-STOP SHOP AT ELTE MARKET

- **Open-concept 50,000-square-foot showroom**
- **Affordable selection of furniture (sofas for as low as $595), rugs, bedding and accessories**
- **Buy right off the floor**

**2 What's the difference between Elte and Elte Market?** Elte will always be the go-to for the very best in home furnishings, while Elte Market's focus boils down to three key areas: affordability, selection and availability. We work directly with artisans and vendors around the world to offer style and quality at a great price point. Our extensive selection is always in stock, available for immediate pickup or delivery.

**3 What's your favourite piece?** Elte Market carries more than 2,000 rugs, so it's fair to say we're suckers for a great rug! One particular favourite is a Moroccan-inspired natural undyed wool piece with a geometric sari silk print.

## HOUSEWARES

WE ASKED

**KYLE ANDREW,**
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT & BRAND DIRECTOR, KATE SPADE SATURDAY

### KATE SPADE SATURDAY COLLECTION AT WEST ELM

- **First-time collaboration • Playful, easygoing style**
- **Full range of furniture, bedding and accessories**

**1 Tell us about Kate Spade Saturday. How does it differ from Kate Spade New York?** The two brands share the same core DNA – bright colours, bold prints and graphic designs – but Kate Spade Saturday is younger and more casual. It embodies the spirit of Saturday, seven days a week. Our shopper is the kind of girl who might sleep in till noon, but she'll do it on her wildly stylish bedding (starting at $24), which *didn't* break the bank.

**2 Why did you choose to collaborate with West Elm on your latest home goods line?** West Elm has a similar spirit and design aesthetic to ours. Together, we are constantly thinking about the Kate Spade Saturday girl, how she lives and entertains, and creating fun products that fit her lifestyle.

**3 What's your favourite piece in the collection?** A black clothing rack ($149). It's a useful storage solution that's also chic.

It will be love at first sight when you discover PANDORA's new Valentine's Day Collection. Overflowing with timeless symbols of love, this romantic collection of .925 sterling silver and 14K gold jewelry will capture your heart.

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www.pearhome.ca

Some jewelry displayed patented (US Pat. No. 7,007,507) • © Pandora • PANDORA.NET

Charlotte's vacation home in Greece.

## HOME FRAGRANCE

**JO MALONE LONDON MY WANDERLUST COLLECTION AT HOLT RENFREW**

- **Travel-inspired home fragrances**
- **Beautiful watercolour packaging**
- **Limited-edition line**

### WE ASKED

**CHARLOTTE STOCKDALE,**
STYLE EDITOR,
JO MALONE LONDON

**1 Tell us about Jo Malone London's latest collection.** It contains five limited-edition home fragrance products inspired by my worldly adventures. It's called My Wanderlust (wanderlust being an "innate desire to travel").

**2 What is your favourite piece from the collection?** Each piece is special to me, evoking a specific memory. The Night Jasmine & Oregano linen spray ($75), for example, is inspired by my childhood holidays in Greece, where I now have a vacation home. The Acacia & Honey soap ($50) recalls Australia.

**3 The packaging is stunning! What influenced it?** I thought of watercolour sketchbooks from the grand tour and little paintings done by my relations. Much like scent, colour is instantly evocative, so I wanted to use this historical idea to create something that was contemporary and abstract.

## PAINT

Fleur Foncée makes a dramatic statement.

### WE ASKED

**ERIN MCLAUGHLIN,**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
STYLE AT HOME

**1 Tell us about the Country Colour Collection II.** The selection of 50 paint colours is an update to our first country-inspired collection. We've kept old favourites and added new treasures. Whether you tend toward rustic chic or a modernized take on country, there's a colour scheme in it for you.

**2 How does the collection take the guesswork out of choosing paint?** We've rounded up nine foolproof palettes: Seven of them offer four neutrals and two accent shades. And for the diehard neutral devotee, there is also an all-white and an all-grey colour scheme.

**3 Do you have a favourite palette?** I love Ronnybrook, a new addition. Its taupes and mauves are a sweet reminder of the ice cream stall at the Chelsea Market in New York City, where I had my wedding photos taken.

**BEAUTI-TONE STYLE AT HOME COUNTRY COLOUR COLLECTION II AT HOME HARDWARE**

- **50 paint colours**
- **Nine palettes**
- **Hand-picked by Erin McLaughlin**

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (INTERIOR & ERIN'S PORTRAIT)

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# dove grey

Understated yet beautiful, pale grey is a subtle shade, yes – but associate editor Amanda Etty proves that it makes a statement in its simplicity.

1

**INSPIRATION**
This monochromatic look from Steven Alan is cozy and laid-back in dove grey.

2

Wallpaper newbie? Go for a small-scale pattern in a muted shade.

3

4

5

9

8

Move over, white – pale grey is the hot new neutral for dishware.

6

7

1 Jax **SCONCE** in Grey, $119, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

2 Lyla **ARMCHAIR** in Grey, $179, EQ3, eq3.com.

3 Oh Joy! Stone's Throw Away **WALLPAPER** in Gray, $125 US per double roll, Hygge & West, hyggeandwest.com.

4 Linen Color Border **NAPKINS** in Pewter, $48 US per set of 4, Coyuchi, coyuchi.com.

5 Cotton Brahms Mount Herringbone **THROW** in Dove Grey, $295 US, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

6 Cocktail Bling **NAIL POLISH,** $10, Essie, essie.ca.

7 Laurentide **DINNER PLATE** in Light Grey, $18 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

8 Linen Marble Patch **TOSS CUSHION** in Smoke & Metallic Silver, $189 US, Rebecca Atwood, rebeccaatwood.com.

9 Sterling silver three-piece Russian **BANGLE,** $329, Michael Hill, michaelhill.ca.

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# repainting trim

From baseboards to chair rails, mouldings see a lot of wear. Our resourceful research editor, Mary Levitski, shows how to revive them.

## How-To

### STEP 1

Inspect the trim under a bright light; mark dents and scratches. Sand away any peeling paint or bumps with a sanding sponge. Use a flexible putty knife to remove excess paint from corners and fine details. Fill dents with spackling compound and buff using no-load 320-grit sandpaper. Vacuum the entire surface with a brush attachment, then wipe it down with a damp cloth (if you're going to be using oil-based paint, use a tack cloth instead).

### STEP 2

Lay down a drop cloth and tape off the trim with painter's tape. Spot prime the patched-up areas and any bare wood. Starting with a small one-foot section, paint a few quick back and forth strokes. Without reloading the brush, run it along the freshly painted surface in a smooth, light motion. Cover section by section this way, always starting away from the painted areas and blending into them.

### STEP 3

Right after applying the coat of paint, carefully peel the painter's tape back at a 45-degree angle. If applying multiple coats, remove and reapply the tape each time.

**TIP**
If the paint has dried over the tape, use a razor blade to break the bond.

## STYLISH SOLUTION

Get the appearance of high-end tall baseboards without the hefty price tag. Attach a narrow piece of trim about an inch above your baseboard. Paint both mouldings and the space between them one colour for a seamless, eye-tricking look. From $0.30 per sq. ft., Central Fairbank Lumber, centralfairbank.com.

## ALL THE TRIMMINGS

*Whether you pick the quintessential painter's tape or a handy alternative, be sure to prep your paint area well.*

**GO-TO** An industry favourite, FrogTape is treated with a special blocking agent that's known to prevent paint from bleeding.

FrogTape Multi-Surface **PAINTER'S TAPE,** $10, Rona, rona.ca.

**GUIDING SPIRIT**
A trim guide like this one by Quebec-based manufacturer A. Richard cuts prep time and ensures a clean line – just be sure to hold it firmly in place as you paint.

A. Richard **TRIM GUIDE,** 23", $7, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

**TWO-IN-ONE** This durable plastic sheeting, which unrolls to a 24" width, is lined with painter's tape on one edge, so you can ready baseboards with one swift application.

ScotchBlue Pre-taped **PAINTER'S PLASTIC,** $9, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (DINING ROOM)



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**TEXT** BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

# sitting room

The rich palette and Parisian flair of this elegant sitting room decorated by Toronto designer Ingrid Oomen are enough to make any homeowner swoon.

*There's no denying that the daybed is the centrepiece of the room and, set against detailed wainscotting, emphasizes its timeless appeal.*

**this** eclectic living space has been outfitted to perfection. The traditional daybed secures its statement-piece status with velvet and silk toss cushions and a pale grey throw, lending a polished aesthetic that isn't too refined. The gorgeous bay window brightens up the room, creating a sense of spaciousness while offering a stunning view of the wintry outdoors. It's the type of place that every home needs – somewhere restful, where you can pore over a beloved read or daydream to your heart's content.

*Time-worn pieces coupled with fresh blooms give the space a more lived-in and homey feel.*

*The marble fireplace, Venetian mirror and classic armchair speak to the room's Parisian style, a lovely combination of old and new.*

*Layers of mixed prints and deep hues like peacock blue add instant depth, especially when paired with crisp white walls and traditional furniture.*

**DESIGN,** Qummunicate, qummunicate.com; **SIDE TABLE, RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS,** grey **THROW,** Elte; *Room With Daybed* **ARTWORK** by Hanna Ruminski, Art Interiors.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# GET THE LOOK ON A BUDGET

## SITTING ROOM

Sea Gull Lighting **LIGHT FIXTURE** in Heirloom Bronze, $144, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

Cotton Handcut Shapes **TOSS CUSHION** in Rain with feather insert, $58, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

Oxford White CC-30 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Harper Denim **RUG,** from $195 US, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

Reflections **MIRROR,** $219, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.

Black hand-rubbed mahogany and tufted burlap **DAYBED,** $3,201, Black Rooster Decor, blackroosterdecor.com.

# laundry room

Executive editor Suzanne Moutis loves great organizing ideas. Here, she shares innovative solutions for storing your stuff.

**LOADS OF US WOULD SAY THE KITCHEN** is the hub of the home, but at *Style at Home*, we consider the laundry room to be just as important: In the same way a killer outfit makes you feel prepared to manage the day, a well-appointed and orderly laundry room makes you feel your home is running smoothly.

**1** Make use of baskets – those workhorses of virtually every storage system – to corral items that don't need to be on display.

**2** Press any small slivers of space into service by installing hooks for holding laundry-related bits and bobs. Here, brushes are at the ready to make short work of dirt and dust on surfaces.

**3** Keep everything in its place with sweet labelled containers. If you're like me, you're a sucker for anything that tells you what to do with it – essentially doing your organizing work for you!

**4** Hang delicates like scarves and shawls to dry in a small niche reserved for the purpose.

**5** Add wheels to your laundry cart for extra versatility; rolling it from here to there means less lifting and carting. This canvas hamper also offers the luxury of cleaning the liner as well as the clothes inside it.

**TIP**

*Laundry rooms, especially those in the basement, always seem cold. So although a waterproof floor is a necessity, address the chill of porcelain tiles by throwing down a runner or mat underfoot in high-traffic areas.*

PRODUCER, ANDREA MCCRINDLE; PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL NANGREAVES

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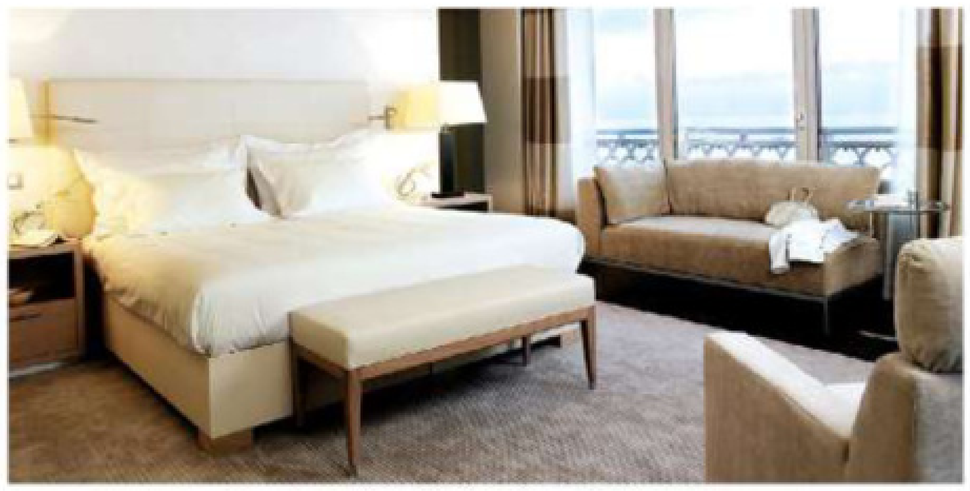
# monte carlo

Not just a playground for the rich and famous, Monte Carlo, Monaco, offers lavish design inspiration and luxurious restaurants that are worth the splurge for a special occasion.

## MONTE-CARLO BAY HOTEL & RESORT

This relaxed, family-friendly resort is packed with recreational amenities, such as a spa, two pools and four restaurants. The rooms are modern yet cozy, with contemporary oak furniture and sandstone floors.

40 Ave. Princesse Grace, montecarlobay.com.



## CASINO DE MONTE-CARLO

This beautiful *belle époque*-style building is *the* place to visit, whether you're a gambler or not. The interior is utterly sumptuous, with soaring ceilings, lavish chandeliers and onyx columns.

Place du Casino, casinomontecarlo.com.

## LE VISTAMAR

This Michelin-starred seafood restaurant, located in the Hôtel Hermitage, flaunts effortlessly elegant decor achieved by the much-lauded French designer Pierre-Yves Rochon. With tables overlooking the harbour, dinner here is worth every euro.

Square Beaumarchais, hotelhermitagemontecarlo.com.

## HÔTEL DE PARIS MONTE-CARLO

The expansive marble lobby of the famed Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo greets guests with a grand sense of arrival. The spacious sunny rooms are a delightful combination of charming and contemporary.

Place du Casino, hoteldeparismontecarlo.com.

## LA BOUTIQUE DU ROCHER

Opened by Princess Grace in 1966, the shop offers a delightful selection of handcrafted Monegasque and Provençal items, such as ceramics and mirrors. All proceeds go to local charities.

1 Ave. de la Madone, 377-93-30-91-17.

TEXT, NATALIE DISCALA; ILLUSTRATIONS, EMILIE SIMPSON, ISTOCKPHOTO (DICE)



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# kitchen cravings

Associate editor and food enthusiast Amanda Etty rounds up the latest and greatest gourmet products, kitchen gadgets and more.

Copper **KETTLE** with leather sleeve, from $139, Monarch Methods, monarch-methods.com; *Coffee: A Modern Field Guide* **BOOK** by Mat North, $15, We Hunt & Gather, wehuntandgather.co.uk.

## COFFEE CULTURE

Made in Toronto by Chris Checkan, this sleek copper pour-over kettle is designed with efficiency and brewing precision in mind. And just for fun, step up your coffee appreciation with *Coffee: A Modern Field Guide* from U.K.-based We Hunt & Gather. It's filled with everything you need to understand, buy and better enjoy a cup of joe.

## Honey Do

Made on the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, whipped and unpasteurized Classe Ouvrière Seashore honey is probably the best I've ever tasted. Its sweet floral notes and beautifully smooth texture make it the perfect accompaniment to elevate your next cheeseboard.

Classe Ouvrière Seashore **HONEY,** $15, Société-Orignal, societe-orignal.com.

Whether or not you celebrate Valentine's Day, this enticing pairing is perfect for the occasion.

## Hot Couple

What's better than artisanal chocolate and sparkling wine? I'd say not much, but as an unabashed lover of both, maybe I'm biased. Jackson-Triggs' Sparkling Merlot is surprising, elegant and the perfect partner to this decadent spicy and sweet dark chocolate bar.

Aleppo Pepper **CHOCOLATE BAR** with Maldon salt, $8 each, Soma Chocolatemaker, somachocolate.com; Grand Reserve Entourage **SPARKLING MERLOT,** $30, Jackson-Triggs, jacksontriggswinery.com.

## Better With Age

Pour, preserve and enjoy today's wine tomorrow with Savino's glass decanter. A plastic float slows down oxidation, keeping your vino fresh for up to one week – allowing you to imbibe what's left of this Friday's bottle next Wednesday.

Savino Connoisseur Wine Preservation **DECANTER,** $45, Indigo, indigo.ca.

## Looking Sharp

Ask any pro chef and they'll surely tell you that a top-quality knife is essential for the home cook. With a sharp stainless steel blade and a rosewood handle sporting a beautiful grain and comfortable feel, this one is the ultimate blend of good looks and function.

Rosewood Collection **CHEF'S KNIFE,** 8", $65, Victorinox Swiss Army, swissarmy.com.

# DAIRY GOODNESS. TO KEEP THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

PHILLY LIGHT HAS 70% LESS FAT THAN BUTTER PER SERVING.*

*At least 70% less fat in 15 g of Spreadable *Philadelphia* Light Cream Cheese Product than 10 g of butter.

PHILLY UP.

**TEXT** BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JEFF COULSON | **PROP STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

# coconut rice pudding

Recipe developer and food stylist Tanya Eng reinvents a classic comfort dish with a dash of tropical sweetness.

As winter's chill persists, we're caught craving both the toasty indoors and a tropical place to escape to at a moment's notice. This decadent rice pudding, with its creamy, rich texture and sweet coconut flavour, pays tribute to these warm comforts. Not only is it satisfying enough to serve for dessert and breakfast (sorry, oatmeal!), but one spoonful is also bound to cure those cold weather woes, no matter how blustery the day. Think of it as a refreshing twist on a traditional favourite – one that would make any grandmother proud.

## INGREDIENTS

**SERVES 6 TO 8**

- 2 stalks lemon grass
- ½ vanilla bean
- 2 cups 2% milk
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- 1 400-ml can coconut milk
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1 coconut

PHOTOGRAPHY, JEFF COULSON/TC MEDIA

## DIRECTIONS

**TO MAKE THE PUDDING,** trim and discard the woody tops and bottoms of the lemon grass. Peel off and throw away the first two outer layers, then crush the inner stalks with the side of a chef's knife to release the oils. Place in a medium saucepan. Scrape the seeds of the vanilla bean with the back of a paring knife; add the seeds and bean to the saucepan along with the milk, water, rice, coconut milk, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat and simmer, stirring frequently, for 40 to 50 minutes until the rice is tender and the mixture has thickened to pudding consistency.

**MEANWHILE, TO CRACK THE COCONUT,** rap sharply with a hammer around the middle of the coconut. Break further into smaller pieces. (Strain the coconut water for drinking, if desired.) Carefully pry the coconut meat from the shell using a knife. Run a peeler along the edge of the coconut meat to make long ribbons. Bake the ribbons in a single layer on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet at 400°F for 5 to 7 minutes, until toasted. Serve the pudding warm or chilled topped with the roasted coconut ribbons.

S@H Sign up to receive all of our best recipes at **STYLEATHOME.COM/BEAUTIFULBITES.**

# alexa hampton

Associate editor and social butterfly Sara Cation brushes elbows with the brightest minds in interior design.

I've been determined to make Alexa Hampton (award-winning interior designer, author and daughter of the inimitable Mark Hampton) my best friend ever since I interviewed her. She's smart and glamorous, hilarious and self-deprecating – everything I love. And she's obsessed with ancient Greece (my university major), has an arsenal of concert T-shirts (my weekend wardrobe) and never leaves home without a book (guess what's in my purse right now?). Hashtag kindred spirits! My chance to make this bestie thing happen comes January 24, when she'll be one of the headliners of the Toronto Interior Design Show (IDS) to share her design wisdom. I'll be there – front row, centre.

**I'm so excited you're coming to the Toronto IDS.**
As am I! I'll be speaking about the lessons in my new book, *Decorating in Detail*. Usually when I'm at design shows, I'm presenting my collection with Hickory Chair, so I don't get to walk around. It's only really when I go to shows in a speaking capacity that I actually get to see things – which is shocking and embarrassing, but true!

**How would you describe your style?**
I love modernism and classicism; I love contrast. But I'm really living vicariously through my clients. From the most whimsical house by the beach to the most modern ski house in Aspen to a traditional triplex in Manhattan, I get to work on lots of different styles. As long as it's not ugly, I'm into it. And my sense of colour changes all the time, so I never get bored.

PHOTOGRAPHY: EVAAN KHERAJ, SCOTT FRANCES(2)

**» Cultured Neo-classicism** The owners of this duplex hired Alexa for its redesign after working with her father more than 15 years ago – a testament to the Hampton family name.

**» Seaside Sophistication** In this beach house, casual elements, such as bamboo shades, chambray-blue drapery, mixed woods and a sisal rug, look effortlessly elegant, just like the designer herself.

**What colours are you loving right now?**
I'm having a purple moment. It's funny, I used to revile purple. When I was 10, all I would wear is purple, and overdoing it back then really scorched me. So I was recovering for the ensuing 30 years, and now I've returned! I'm trying to be a little less excessive this time around.... I don't wear Gloria Vanderbilt purple jeans every day.

**But maybe you could!**
Hey – I couldn't then. I *did*, but I shouldn't have.

**What are some of your earliest decor memories?**
As a decorator's daughter, my earliest memories – period – are of decor. My parents had a very groovy red living room with David Hicks patterns and white plastic cube tables, but also porphyry urns and bergère chairs – very eclectic, but super cool. I think my father was the greatest designer that ever lived.

**What's the greatest lesson he ever taught you?**
To blow my nose. Oh, you mean about design? It's really hard to tease out the threads of what began with him – I feel like everything began with him. He was very didactic and meticulous. He wanted things to be the best they could be – okay wasn't an acceptable end goal. That was really inspiring, to see a grownup that involved and that driven. He was really possessed by his love of design. He taught me that if you take joy from what you do, the results are far better.

**How often do you redesign your own home?**
Not that often. I used to rearrange things all the time – it drove my husband crazy – but now I'm striving to land. I decorate ambitiously for myself – not for who I am now but for who I'd like to be. If I decorate for who I am right this second, I'm going to be over it by next year.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALEXA HAMPTON'S NEW BOOK, *DECORATING IN DETAIL*, TURN TO OUR WORKBOOK

**Dining Drama** The blue and white scheme seen on the Chinese porcelain in the room is inverted in the wallpaper for a moody atmosphere that's fitting for the seaside.

Interior designer (and my soon-to-be new best friend) Alexa Hampton of the iconic design firm Mark Hampton.

**Give me an example.**
I'm not a formal person, so my formal living room is a hilarious disconnect from who I am. I walk around in my husband's boxer shorts and holey concert T-shirts. But I'm striving to belong in those refined rooms – maybe I should start brushing my hair before going in.

**What would we be surprised to find in your home?**
I love all kinds of classical artifacts. I have a mini Acropolis on the coffee table, Piranesi drawings of the Pantheon, several Greek busts.... So you might be surprised to see that I'm a crazy classical artifact collector.

**And if you weren't a designer, what would you do?**
I could be a failing artist – that would be fun.

**Do you do a lot of art?**
I don't do a lot, no. But that's why I would be a *failing* artist. I didn't say I was any good or that I would do it with any regularity. I could be a great TV and movie critic. I like to think that I could be a trophy wife, but then I would have to go to the gym and fix my appearance and that's not going to happen. Yeah...I'm just good at doing what I'm doing.

**If you could live in any era, what would it be?**
It'd have to be this one. I love the convenience. What would I do without my iPad? What would I do without indoor plumbing? And underwire bras? We have rosy nostalgia for eras other than our own, but I don't think I could swap. I could do it for a short time – like a Renaissance fair. With my iPad checked at the door.

**You could try to smuggle it in, though.**
Yeah! I *need* a photo of that lute player.

**Ask him for a selfie!**

**Colourful Conservatory** The garden room of this New Jersey Tudor Revival residence is all about referencing the outdoors, from its green tone to the hand-painted wallpaper alive with branches and birds.

**Central Park Character** Don't you love it when design comes full circle? Alexa used the clock on the fireplace mantel in a 1999 show house and found it again at an antiques store while shopping for this Central Park-area home.

PHOTOGRAPHY, STEVE FREIHON, SCOTT FRANCES(2), ANDREW FRENCH

Unilever

# Discover the power of just one shower.

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Dove Body Wash gives you 10X more moisturizers.*
**And softer, smoother skin after one shower.**

* vs. a leading body wash

**PRODUCER** ANDREA MCCRINDLE

**TEXT** SARA CATION

**PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL NANGREAVES

Winter feels a whole lot warmer when you're watching it from the other side of the window in snug living rooms like these, which we pulled together on splurge and save budgets. Can you tell the difference?

# high OR low?

**1** Ryan Studio cut velvet Gee-Oh **TOSS CUSHION** in Mink with down fill, 22" x 22", Cocoon Furnishings, cocoonfurnishings.ca. — $216

**2** Kevin O'Brien Studio hand-painted silk velvet Woodgrain **TOSS CUSHION** in Peacock with down insert, 22" x 22", Artifacts, artifactslifestyle.com. — $359

**3** Kevin O'Brien Studio hand-painted silk velvet Ombre Gradient **TOSS CUSHION** in Green Teal with down insert, 22" x 22", Artifacts, artifactslifestyle.com. — $359

**4** Custom Kentucky **SOFA** with cotton felt 4201 fabric in Cliff, 87" x 42" x 38", Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com. — $4,890

**5** Steel and brass Fly Trap **SCONCE** in Black, Pavilion, pavilionmodern.com. — $450

**6** Mr. Brown medium shagreen-embossed faux leather Imogen **BOX** in Cloud, South Hill Home, southhillhome.com. — $585

**7** Marble and powder-coated aluminum Swag **SIDE TABLE,** Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca. — $500

**8** Silk and wool Modern Fresco No.1 **RUG** in Purple & Light Grey, 8' x 10', Modern Weave, modernweave.com. — $12,950

**9** Honed marble, walnut and steel Free Range **COFFEE TABLE,** Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca. — $699

**10** Aerin brass small and medium Sphere **NESTING BOWLS,** per set of 2, Cocoon Furnishings, cocoonfurnishings.ca. — $450

**HIGH & LOW** Small striped **BOX** (on coffee table), West Elm, westelm.com; GlucksteinHome large Irregular Cut Glass **VASE** in Grey, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

**1** Cotton Handcut Shapes **TOSS CUSHION** in Charcoal with feather insert, 20" x 20", Tonic Living, tonicliving.com. — $58

**2** Cotton velvet **TOSS CUSHION** in Eggplant with feather insert, 20" x 20", Tonic Living, tonicliving.com. — $62

**3** Dip-dyed cotton velvet Ombre **TOSS CUSHION COVER** in Blue Stone, 20" x 20", $39, feather **INSERT,** $12, West Elm, westelm.com. — $51

**4** Stocksund **SOFA** with polyester Nolhaga fabric in Dark Gray, 37" x 35" x 78", IKEA, ikea.ca. — $699

**5** Andrew Neyer steel and walnut Mantis **SCONCE,** CB2, cb2.ca. — $149

**6** Small resin Faux Shagreen **BOX** in Charcoal, West Elm, westelm.com. — $49

**7** Marble and powder-coated aluminum Tulip **SIDE TABLE,** Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca. — $249

**8** Polypropylene Verona **RUG** in Sand, Light Blue & Grey, 7' x 10', Weavers Art, weaversart.com. — $945

**9** Walnut-veneered MDF and wood Yuki **COFFEE TABLE,** $499, Structube, structube.com; Marble **CONTACT PAPER** in Marmi Grey, $65 per roll, DYW, designyourwall.com. — $564

**10** AKMD brass Origami **BOWLS,** per set of 3, Pavilion, pavilionmodern.com. — $249

"I WENT PRO AND HAD MY BEST CHECK-UP EVER. *YES!*"

## GO PRO FOR TEETH THAT ARE UP TO 4X CLEANER*

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• paint palette •

# MOODY WINTER

JUST BECAUSE IT'S ALL SLEET, SLATE AND SNOW OUTSIDE DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HAVE COLOUR INSIDE! AVOID A JARRING JUXTAPOSITION WITH MOTHER NATURE'S WINTER WARDROBE – SAVE THE YELLOWS FOR SPRING – AND OPT FOR SMOKY PURPLES AND DEEP TEALS THAT COMPLEMENT (AND UPLIFT) THE DARK SKIES AND MOODY WINTER LANDSCAPE.

**1** Dolphin Blue P5156-41, Para Paints, para.com; **2** Gentility 30-26, Pratt & Lambert Paints, prattandlambert.com; **3** Valspar Opal Slate 4001-1C, Lowe's, lowes.ca; **4** Tricorn Black SW 6258, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com; **5** All White 2005, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

DIY

## MARBLE MAGIC

LET'S FACE IT: AS MUCH AS WE LOVE THAT LUXE MARBLE LOOK, WE CAN'T ALL AFFORD IT. BUT IF WE'VE LEARNED ANYTHING HERE AT *STYLE AT HOME*, IT'S THAT THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY TO GET WHAT YOU WANT ON A BUDGET USING THREE HANDY INITIALS: DIY.

**MATERIALS**

- Marble-look contact paper
- Coffee table
- Pencil
- Scissors

Marble **CONTACT PAPER** in Marmi Grey, $65 per roll, DYW, designyourwall.com.

**1** Roll out the contact paper and place it right side down on a flat surface.

**2** Remove the top of the coffee table, and lay it directly on the contact paper. If you're unable to remove the tabletop, carefully flip the whole coffee table over onto the paper.

**3** Using a pencil, trace the circumference of the tabletop onto the paper, then remove the tabletop.

**4** Use scissors to carefully cut along the pencil line.

**5** Starting at one end of the table, peel off a few inches of the contact paper backing and carefully stick the paper to the table. Continue the application, gradually peeling, sticking and smoothing it out as you go to avoid any wrinkles and air bubbles.

# BIRCH, PLEASE!

**HIGH**

$4,916

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams mohair and leather London in Steel, Elte, elte.com.

$1,999

Camilla with polyester blend Aura fabric in Greystone, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$1,895

Linen blend Ellington in Periwinkle, Elte Market, eltemkt.com.

**LOW**

It took a lot of research for us to realize there's very little information available about William Birch – the person synonymous with some of the most sophisticated sofas on the market. Ask any decorator, and they'll list his rolled-arm, turned-leg, low sofa as a traditional favourite. Ask any furniture designer with a large volume of work, and they'll almost certainly have a **William Birch-style sofa** in their collection. These sofas are some of the most renowned in the industry, so why is the man himself such a mystery?

**CANVAS,** 12" x 16", $2, Dollarama, dollarama.com; Amerock wood Cabinet **KNOB,** $3, steel Safety **CHAIN,** $1 per ft., Rust-Oleum Universal All-Surface Metallic **SPRAY PAINT** in Pure Gold, $11, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

DIY

## THE CHAIN GAIN

UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTISTE BY SPLASHING PAINT ON A CANVAS (HERE'S A CHANCE TO REINFORCE YOUR ROOM'S PALETTE), THEN CHANNEL YOUR INNER GALLERY OWNER BY DISPLAYING IT IN A FRESH NEW WAY. A HANDFUL OF HARDWARE STORE BASICS AND SOME GOLD SPRAY PAINT AMOUNT TO A SIMPLE DIY PROJECT THAT FEELS STYLISH ENOUGH FOR A SOHO ART STUDIO.

**MATERIALS**

- Canvas
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold spray paint
- 4"-long metal chain
- Wooden knob
- Metal cup hook
- 2" machine screw
- Hacksaw
- Pencil
- Plug
- Pliers

**1** Get creative and paint a blank canvas with acrylic paint; let dry.

**2** Spray-paint the chain, knob and cup hook gold; let dry.

**3** Screw the cup hook into the top centre of the canvas frame.

**4** Cut off the head of the screw using a hacksaw.

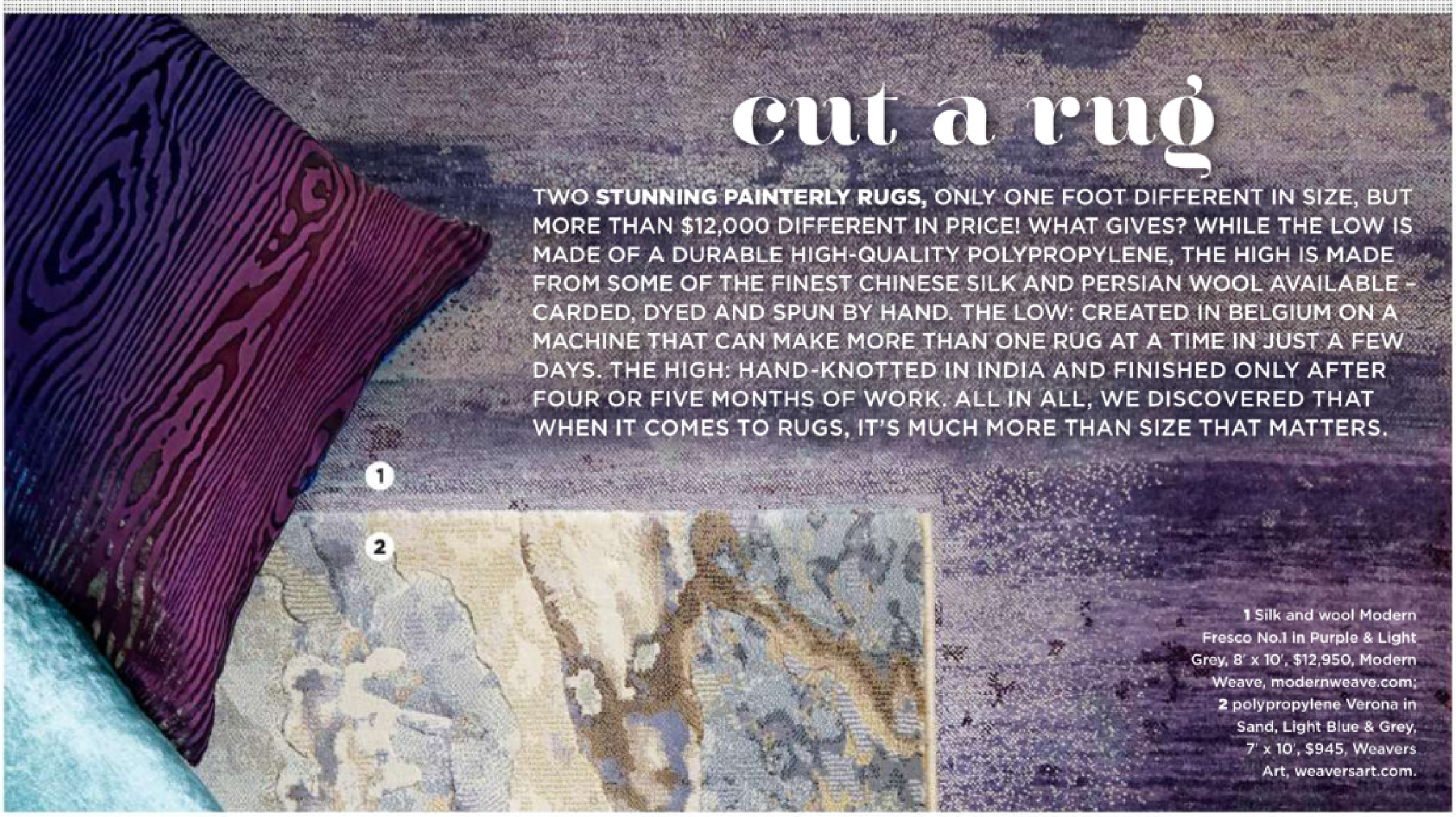
**5** Mark the spot on the wall where you want to hang the art. Then mark 4" above that point for the knob's placement.

**6** Install the plug into the mark for the knob on the wall. Twist the cut end of the screw halfway into the plug using pliers, making sure not to damage the threads.

**7** Slip one end of the chain onto the exposed part of the screw.

**8** Twist the knob onto the screw.

**9** Slip the cup hook into the other end of the chain to hang the artwork.




# cut a rug

TWO **STUNNING PAINTERLY RUGS,** ONLY ONE FOOT DIFFERENT IN SIZE, BUT MORE THAN $12,000 DIFFERENT IN PRICE! WHAT GIVES? WHILE THE LOW IS MADE OF A DURABLE HIGH-QUALITY POLYPROPYLENE, THE HIGH IS MADE FROM SOME OF THE FINEST CHINESE SILK AND PERSIAN WOOL AVAILABLE – CARDED, DYED AND SPUN BY HAND. THE LOW: CREATED IN BELGIUM ON A MACHINE THAT CAN MAKE MORE THAN ONE RUG AT A TIME IN JUST A FEW DAYS. THE HIGH: HAND-KNOTTED IN INDIA AND FINISHED ONLY AFTER FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS OF WORK. ALL IN ALL, WE DISCOVERED THAT WHEN IT COMES TO RUGS, IT'S MUCH MORE THAN SIZE THAT MATTERS.

**1** Silk and wool Modern Fresco No.1 in Purple & Light Grey, 8′ x 10′, $12,950, Modern Weave, modernweave.com; **2** polypropylene Verona in Sand, Light Blue & Grey, 7′ x 10′, $945, Weavers Art, weaversart.com.

RETIRE YOUR WAY

10 YEARS TO RETIREMENT

*Personal Finance Expert*
**DEIRDRE MCMURDY**

# Invest in your retirement

Canadians want a retirement that's personalized for them. After deciding on a retirement goal, it's time to build an investment strategy to get there. In part two of this three-part series, personal finance expert Deirdre McMurdy has advice on how to create a plan that's right for you.

DEIRDRE'S TIP

## Invest early.

The sooner you start planning ahead for your retirement, the more flexibility and the more choices you'll have. But it's never too late to start investing. Figure out the steps required to achieve your goals over the long-term. New to financial planning? Try using a tool like Scotiabank's Retirement Savings Reality Check™ at scotiabank.com/retireready to explore different investment scenarios based on your sources of income.

**75%:** PROPORTION OF FUTURE RETIREES WITH A WRITTEN FINANCIAL PLAN WHO ARE COMFORTABLE THEY ARE ON TRACK TO REACH THEIR RETIREMENT GOALS.

(Scotiabank Customer Knowledge & Insights, November 2013 Investment Poll)

DEIRDRE'S TIP

**Invest regularly.** Saving for retirement is like running a marathon—you wouldn't do it without any training. Start small by making regular weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contributions to an RRSP or TFSA and build on that foundation as your finances grow. Review your investment plan annually to ensure your contribution amounts reflect any ups and downs in your employment, health or family life, and chances are you'll be in great financial shape.

DEIRDRE'S TIP

**Stay invested.** Financial markets can be volatile. When markets get temperamental, it's not the time to panic. If you have a plan and you stick to it, there is less reason to worry about the short-term ups and downs and how they'll affect your long-term retirement plans. Your financial advisor can create a personalized investment plan that factors in your risk assessment and meets your retirement goals.

**Make an appointment to meet with a Scotiabank advisor and get a personalized plan that will help you reach your retirement goals.**

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# *everything* BUT THE KITCHEN SINK

**TEXT** LAURA MUIR
**PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON
**STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

After putting up with a dated kitchen for almost a decade, this Toronto couple was more than ready to take on a back-to-the-studs renovation, conjuring a contemporary Euro feel.

**ALISON SAYS**
HONED GRANITE COUNTERTOPS ARE SLEEK YET HARD-WEARING.

**ALISON SAYS**
CORK FLOORS ARE SOFT UNDERFOOT AND EASY TO CLEAN.

Alison Dawson's kitchen serves as a good reminder that, in fact, you can have it all. After living with a cramped cooking space for eight years, she and her partner, Chris McKittrick, embarked on a gut job that opened, brightened and completely modernized the room. But the five-month overhaul, which included renovating their unfinished basement, came with some constraints. "I wanted a super-sleek high-end look, but we had a limited budget," explains Alison.

When the couple – Alison is a designer of her own textile jewellery line called C'est Joli, and Chris is a business director – purchased this 1,400-square-foot semi-detached house in Toronto's west end 12 years ago, its 1960s decor was still intact. "There was wallpaper on every wall," says Alison. "Nothing had been done to the place." And that included the kitchen, with its dark orange and wood palette and sad lack of counter space. "We lived with it for quite some time," she says. "Too long!"

Two years ago, the time was finally right to embark on a big renovation. Inspired by kitchens featured in decor magazines (plus her three-year residence in Belgium), Alison wanted a contemporary Euro feel. So to create a high-end-looking kitchen without the high-end price tag, the couple heavily

**OPPOSITE** The sink was moved underneath the kitchen's expanded west-facing window, which overlooks the leafy backyard. The green wall provides a jolt of fresh colour in the neutral space.

**DESIGN CONSULTING,** Sage Design Studio; **LAYOUT DESIGN,** Endes Design; **CONTRACTING,** RA Design Build; **WALL CLOCK,** IKEA; **SINK, FAUCET, SOAP DISPENSER,** PMF Plumbing Supplies.

**ABOVE & FAR RIGHT** Homeowner Alison Dawson chose elements like porcelain backsplash tiles and stainless steel pulls to complement the kitchen's contemporary look, which is defined by high-gloss flat-panelled cabinetry.

**CABINETRY,** IKEA; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Ceragres; **COUNTERTOPS,** Stoneworx; **RANGE, RANGE HOOD,** Sears; **PULLS,** Richelieu Hardware.

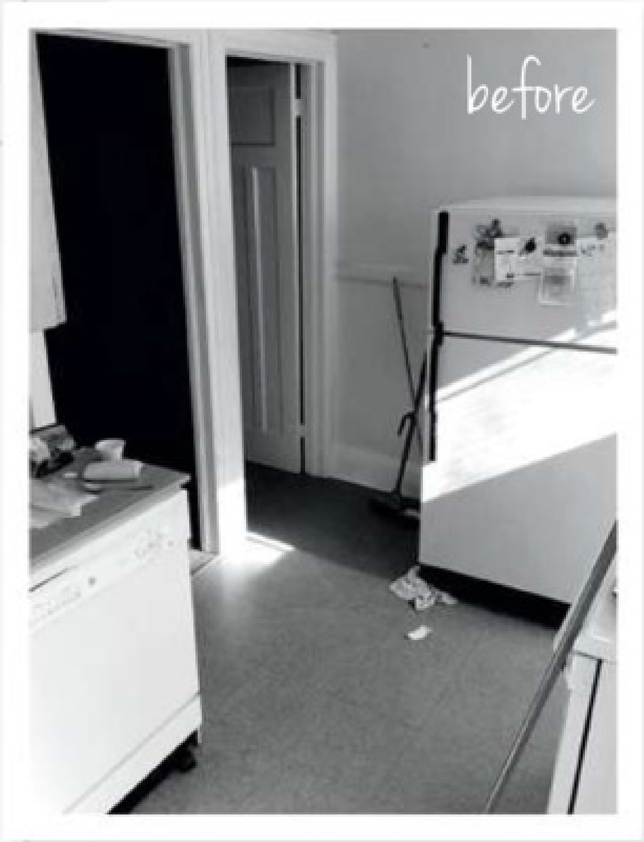
Alison and her partner, Chris McKittrick, tore down a wall to open the kitchen to the dining room, which boasts a Mid-Century Modern vibe thanks to a vintage teak dining set found on Craigslist. "We liked the oval shape of this table because the rest of the elements in the space are fairly rectangular," says Alison. The pendant light, both modern and classic, adds interest.

**RUG,** glass **BOWL,** Elte; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Danish Design Store; fiddle-leaf fig **PLANT,** white bamboo **BOWL** (on countertop), IKEA; **TABLE RUNNER, NAPKINS,** Pehr Designs.

**ALISON SAYS**
A CLASSIC DANISH PENDANT LIGHT WAS WORTH THE SPLURGE.

**ALISON SAYS**
THE WARMTH OF THE TEAK COMPLEMENTS THE KITCHEN'S CORK FLOORS.

**ALISON SAYS**
A SMALL-SCALE FRIDGE SUITS THE SPACE WELL.




"I saw this beautiful home that had *lots of white* and this *hit of green* in a magazine. That's what inspired us."

**ABOVE** The couple closed off the doorway that led from the kitchen to the basement and instead opened up part of the stairway wall so the downstairs entrance is now in the dining room. Closing off the doorway allowed for this pantry wall, which incorporates the wall oven, microwave and small-scale refrigerator. "That's a bit of European influence," says Alison. "And I find that this fridge is more proportional to the other appliances in the space."

**REFRIGERATOR,** Sears; cork **FLOORING,** Carpet Mill; **TEA TOWEL,** Pehr Designs.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

researched where they could cut costs and where they needed to splurge. The first step to saving money was to forgo custom cabinetry. The glossy white off-the-shelf cabinets create a clean-lined aesthetic, and combining them with pricier elements – like the honed granite countertops and stainless steel pulls – elevates the look.

A strict budget didn't stop the couple, who shares the house with Alison's children (Adrienne, 19, and Simon, 17), from improving the kitchen's flow. After opening up the space to the dining room, they stuck with the old kitchen's footprint and created a U-shaped layout with a pantry wall that houses the microwave, wall oven and fridge. The peninsula, which provides extra storage and an ample amount of workspace, takes the place of the oversized island often seen in open kitchens. "I didn't want the kitchen or the dining room to overpower the space. I feel that there's still a nice balance," says Alison.

The sleek, light-filled kitchen was injected with hits of colour and texture that add character and warmth. For example, Alison and Chris painted one wall green, which connects it to the outdoors (the window boasts a view of their leafy backyard).

"Even though this is an older, traditional home, I think we successfully achieved the contemporary feel we were after," says Alison. "And now there can be four of us working in the kitchen, whereas before there was a single countertop where one person could chop something." It's a dramatic transformation – in both style and function – without the dramatic cost.

Entertaining well requires a lot of things: space to interact, multiple seating areas and a waterfall of wine. Designer Jill Woolley's recently renovated luxuriously modern condo ticks all those boxes.

# *she likes to* PARTY

**TEXT** IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD

**STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

**OPPOSITE & RIGHT** Apple green accents uplift the neutral living room. The fireplace and flat-screen TV are recessed into an enormous slab of Statuario marble. "There was debate about whether we should put the TV in here. I wanted the room strictly for entertaining, but my family overruled me," says homeowner and designer Jill Woolley. "In the end, I'm glad. It's a multi-purpose space that works well."

**DESIGN,** Ali Interiors, 647-988-2344; **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN,** Designers Collaborative; **CONSTRUCTION,** Angelica Homes; hardwood **FLOORING** (throughout), Stone Tile International; custom **SOFA, ARMCHAIRS & SIDECHAIRS,** Belfioré Collection; **SOFA, ARMCHAIR & SIDECHAIR FABRIC,** Lee Jofa; custom **DRAPERY,** Nicole Draperies; **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Marble Tech; **SIDE TABLE, RUG, THROW,** diamond-patterned **TOSS CUSHIONS,** white **VASES,** Elte; green glass **TEA LIGHT HOLDERS,** Crate and Barrel.

**RIGHT, BOTTOM** A calm, clean corner in the living room is brought to life by Romanian-Canadian artist Bogdan Molea's undulating "crumpled paper" painting, as well as a pair of sculptural glass vases.

**ART CONSULTING,** Helen Griffiths & Associates, Fine Arts; *Chiaroscuro* **ARTWORK** by Bogdan Molea, Loch Gallery; glass **VASES,** Elte.

## JILL WOOLLEY IS NOT THE SORT OF WOMAN TO BE STUCK IN A CLOSED-OFF KITCHEN ASSEMBLING PIGS IN A BLANKET FOR A DINNER PARTY.

"I want to be where the action is!" says the designer behind Ali Interiors, breezily padding toward her kitchen wearing orange espadrilles that match her bronzy lipstick.

She slides up the painted-glass backsplash to reveal a hidden compartment. With the joie de vivre of a natural-born hostess, she pulls out implements for making tea. This is served on the most magnificent marble island, which is nearly 10 feet long and could have never fit in the condo's original layout.

Three years ago, when Jill and her partner, lawyer Jim Coleman, spotted the two-storey 2,840-square-foot condo with a 500-square-foot terrace in Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood, they instantly fell in love with its location and design potential. The building recalls the gilded age of Edith Wharton's New York City, and the fact that the unit was on the first floor made it feel similar to the house they were downsizing from. The only snag was a large wall that divided the kitchen from the rest of the main floor, stealing square footage from this sociable pair who likes to entertain. But they made an offer anyway – with the condition that they could remove the wall.

"The architectural designer I used had a relationship with the original engineer of this building," says Jill, "so that worked out well. He wasn't going to jeopardize its integrity."

After a year-long down-to-the-cement renovation that saw the home filled with custom millwork, there's a layout that's much more conducive to lively living. "I like open-concept plans where the entire house gets used – I'm not big on formal living and dining rooms," says Jill. Brushed-oak hardwood trails throughout the airy main floor, which has 10-foot-high ceilings and three separate seating areas. At the centre is a relaxed quartet of modern furnishings that were inspired by Barbara Barry ("it's important to be able to kick up your feet at home," says Jill).

There are also head-turning moments, such as a beautiful backlit 240-bottle wine cellar that glows like a piece of art in the entryway. Though it looks precious, "the wine cellar is not just for show," emphasizes Jill. It's often replenished for the holiday and birthday celebrations the couple hosts.

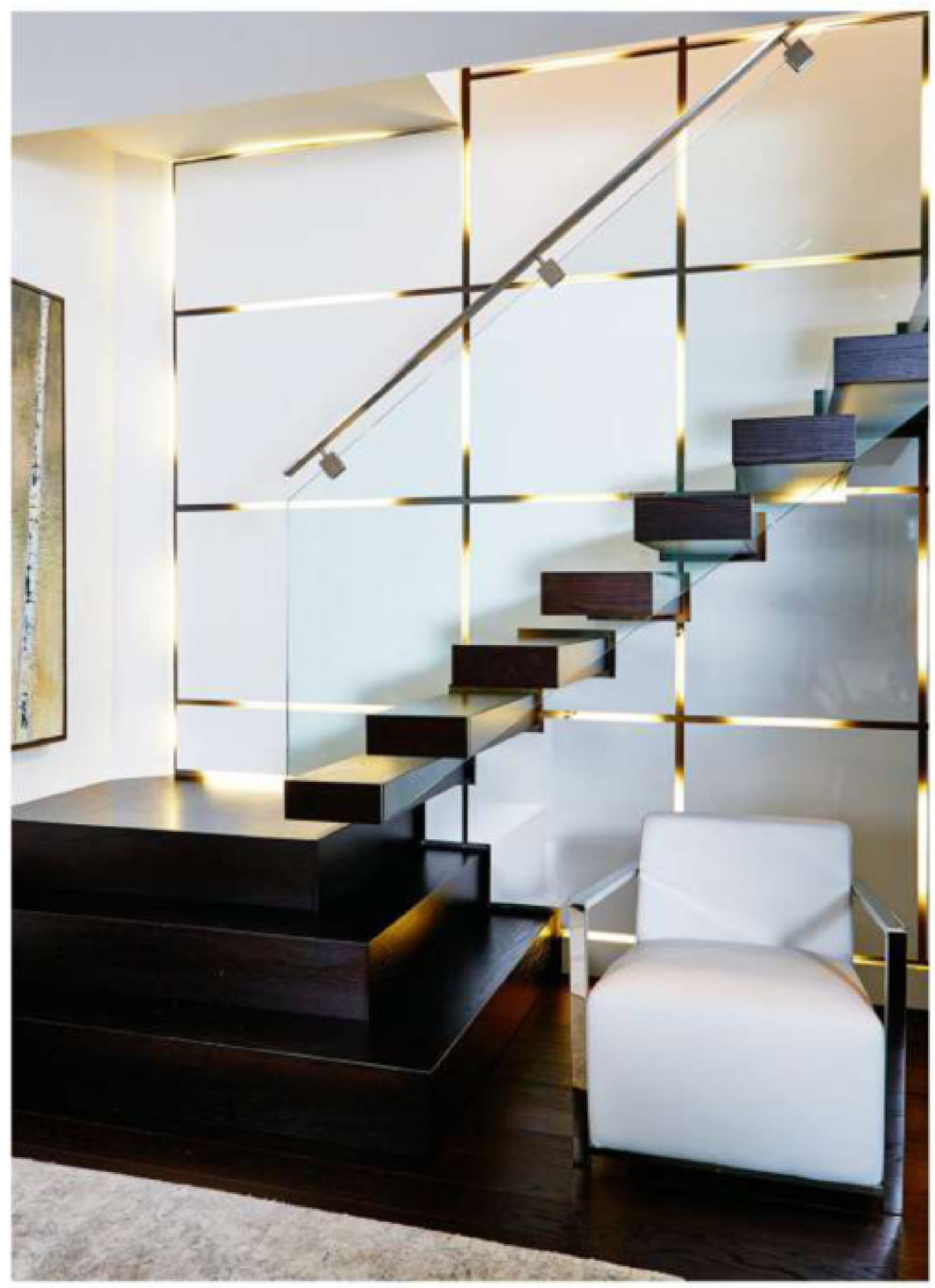
"I like to entertain casually, so I can be part of the event," says Jill. "We spread everything out on the kitchen island and guests help themselves." Don't mind if we do!

**ABOVE** "My partner loves his wine, so I wanted to do a wine feature for him," says Jill. She devised this eye-catching wall in the dining room with the help of Louie Forestieri of Toronto's Multiflex. Encased in glass, the refrigerated wine cellar holds 240 bottles that rest on simple stainless steel holders. It's conveniently located next to a custom zebrawood dining table – "so you can just reach up and grab a bottle of Cabernet while entertaining."

Custom **DINING TABLE,** Cabinet; custom **DINING CHAIRS,** Belfioré Collection; custom **WINE CELLAR,** Multiflex; **CHANDELIER,** Elte; *Yellow Wood* **ARTWORK** by Don Resnick, Odon Wagner Gallery.

**RIGHT** Mimicking the feel of the nearby wine cellar, the LED-lit glass-panelled wall along the staircase strikes a contemporary note in the entryway.

Custom **STAIRCASE,** Multiflex; **RUG,** Elte.



A mix of ceiling-height flat-panelled glossy white and dark maple cabinetry gives the kitchen a super-sleek, expansive feel. The waterfall-style Statuario marble island is stunning in its simplicity.

Custom **CABINETRY & CEILING MILLWORK,** Multiflex; **KITCHEN ISLAND,** Marble Tech; custom **STOOLS,** Belfioré Collection; black **TRAY,** Elte.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# SEEING THE light

At the far end of the family room, blend-into-the-wall white storage cabinets offer function without adding visual weight for a bright, airy space. Classics like *Breakfast at Tiffany's* grace the TV screen on frequent family movie nights.

**CONTRACTING,** IKEA Installation Services, through IKEA, **STORAGE CABINETS,** IKEA; White Diamond 2121-60 **WALL PAINT,** Chantilly Lace OC-65 **TRIM PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **ARMCHAIRS,** Whittington & Co.; Lucite **SIDE TABLES** (behind loveseat), Donghia; metal water buffalo **ANIMAL HEAD,** Bend; Sol **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** (on armchairs) in Sterling, Robert Allen; **TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; solid and ikat **TOSS CUSHIONS** (on loveseat), **THROW,** white knot **SCULPTURE,** marble **BOWL** (on storage cabinet), Elte; *Dust Cover* **ARTWORK** (on storage cabinet), Cybele Young; grey **VASE** (on storage cabinet), Elte Market.

*Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin reimagines her outmoded, dim and dysfunctional basement games room as a bright and inviting multi-purpose family space with Scandi flair.

**TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD | **STYLING** MORGAN LINDSAY

An existing large alcove was the natural choice for the dining nook. Grey paint defines it and balances out the stone-clad fireplace across the room.

Silver Half Dollar 2121-40 **ALCOVE WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE**, IKEA; Greek key and solid **TOSS CUSHIONS, TRAY, NAPKINS**, Elte; Barbara Barry Indochine Royal Maze **LUMBAR CUSHION FABRIC** in Haze, Kravet Canada; **LUMBAR CUSHION SEWING**, Wesley Seto Design.

# DARK. DATED. DUNGEON-LIKE.

Just a few of the adjectives that come to mind when looking at the shocking "before" photo of *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's now-admirable Toronto basement. Low ceilings and black-stained hardwood flooring made the 600-square-foot space feel oppressive – and the hefty pool table, oversized oil paintings and orange-painted millwork didn't help. "It screamed '80s pool hall, but worse yet, it was pretty much unusable," she says. "It needed a total overhaul." To the untrained eye, making something of the narrow, windowless space would have seemed like a wasted effort. But as the proud owner of a century home, Erin is no reno rookie and had a clear vision of an airy, functional family room.

Inspired by the crisp minimalism of Scandinavian design, she began by coating the ceiling and walls with a soft white paint. The chunky beams, though faux, were left intact and treated with the same light paint to help counter the 15-by-40-foot room's bowling-alley effect. Also sporting white, the rustic wood-slat accent wall was a happy accident. "When we took down the built-in bookshelves on the far wall, the drywall behind them was in rough shape," says Erin. Nailing four-inch-wide wood

**FAR RIGHT** Seating options abound in the new family-friendly space. Even Cloudy, homeowner *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's Siamese cat, gets a stylish perch of his very own in an unused corner. The inconspicuous wall-hung radiator was a practical addition in the circa-1920s room.

**FAR RIGHT** Erin opted for a touch-latch mechanism in place of door pulls on the high-gloss flat-panelled storage unit (made from prefab IKEA cabinetry) for a totally streamlined look. A light push in the right spot reveals the family's extended collection of classic flicks and literature.

The next best thing to windows that open to the outside? A pair of radiant nature photographs paired with newly installed pot lights. The wall treatment of white-painted wood boards lends the room a Scandi-chic vibe.

DwellStudio Cotton Loop **DAYBED CUSHION FABRIC** in Brindle, solid purple **TOSS CUSHION FABRICS,** Robert Allen; **DAYBED CUSHION & TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; *Breath of Winter I* (left) and *Breath of Winter II* **ARTWORK,** Stacey Van Berkel; Vanderbilt **TABLE LAMP,** Caravan Pacific.

boards overtop was a simple and stylish way to avoid having to smooth the damage. Next, out came the dark hardwood and a wide-plank blonde oak version put in. To sustain the airiness of the space, Erin chose a palette of soft greys and taupes with mauve accents.

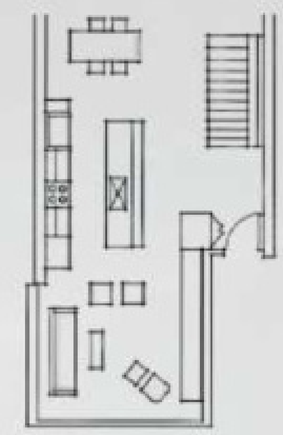
In addition to a light aesthetic, at the top of the must-have list were seating and storage. "I wanted a place where the whole family could spend time together," says Erin, who lives with her husband and two teenaged daughters. All the family room necessities like books and DVDs are neatly hidden inside streamlined white IKEA cabinets. The remaining floor space was used to create not one but three sitting zones (four, if you count the cat's quarters), and all of them serve double duty: The dining alcove can be used as a homework zone, a custom-made daybed for overnight guests makes for a cozy reading nook and a loveseat positioned in front of the TV also faces a pair of armchairs for having intimate conversation. To boot, the basement boasts a kitchenette for easy snack access.

Now that the reno dust has settled, the room is among the most used in the house. "My husband is always down here watching hockey. The girls do their homework at the table," says Erin. "And me? I like to sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labour: A comfortable spot for all of us." It just goes to show that with a little foresight you can create a bright, welcoming gathering space – even in a dim, cheerless basement.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# IT'S A MAN'S WORLD

**3,000 sq. ft.**



Pass the cocktails, flip the record! This bachelor's dapper digs are designed for entertaining.

**TEXT** IRIS BENAROIA
**PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD
**STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

**MASCULINE MOMENT**
GRAFFITI-LIKE ARTWORK

Punk meets pink in homeowner Michael Gordon's living room, where the bright colours found in the frenetic paintings and modern sidechairs are echoed in the bold graphic floral rug.

**DESIGN,** MHouse, mhouseinc.com; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; Eames **LOUNGER & OTTOMAN,** Quasi Modo Modern Furniture; **SIDECHAIRS,** Flos Skygarden S **PENDANT LIGHT,** Kiosk Design; **RUG,** Elte; **ARTWORK** by Thrush Holmes, Klaus; **TRAY,** Pimlico.

## With their ratty recliners, bloated leather sofas and piles of pizza boxes, bachelor pads have long been the butt of jokes – stereotypically so unstylish.

But you would never describe Michael Gordon's digs that way. As sharp as a three-piece suit (one that's been paired with really cool sneakers), the three-storey open-concept house in Toronto's Summerhill neighbourhood evokes that casual-chic balance that can be so tough to pull off.

Loungy furnishings, offbeat art, unique lighting and snappy rugs give the place laid-back charm. The architectural details, meanwhile, are all business. The main floor is bookended by ceiling-height windows at the front and back, while the hardwood floors are done in smoked oak, bringing warmth to stark white walls.

"I do a lot of entertaining here," says Michael, a music aficionado – as evidenced by the stack of current favourite records in the living room and framed band posters in the den. "I don't have televisions on the main floor – I prefer to play vinyl and socialize," he adds, showing off his top-notch sound system.

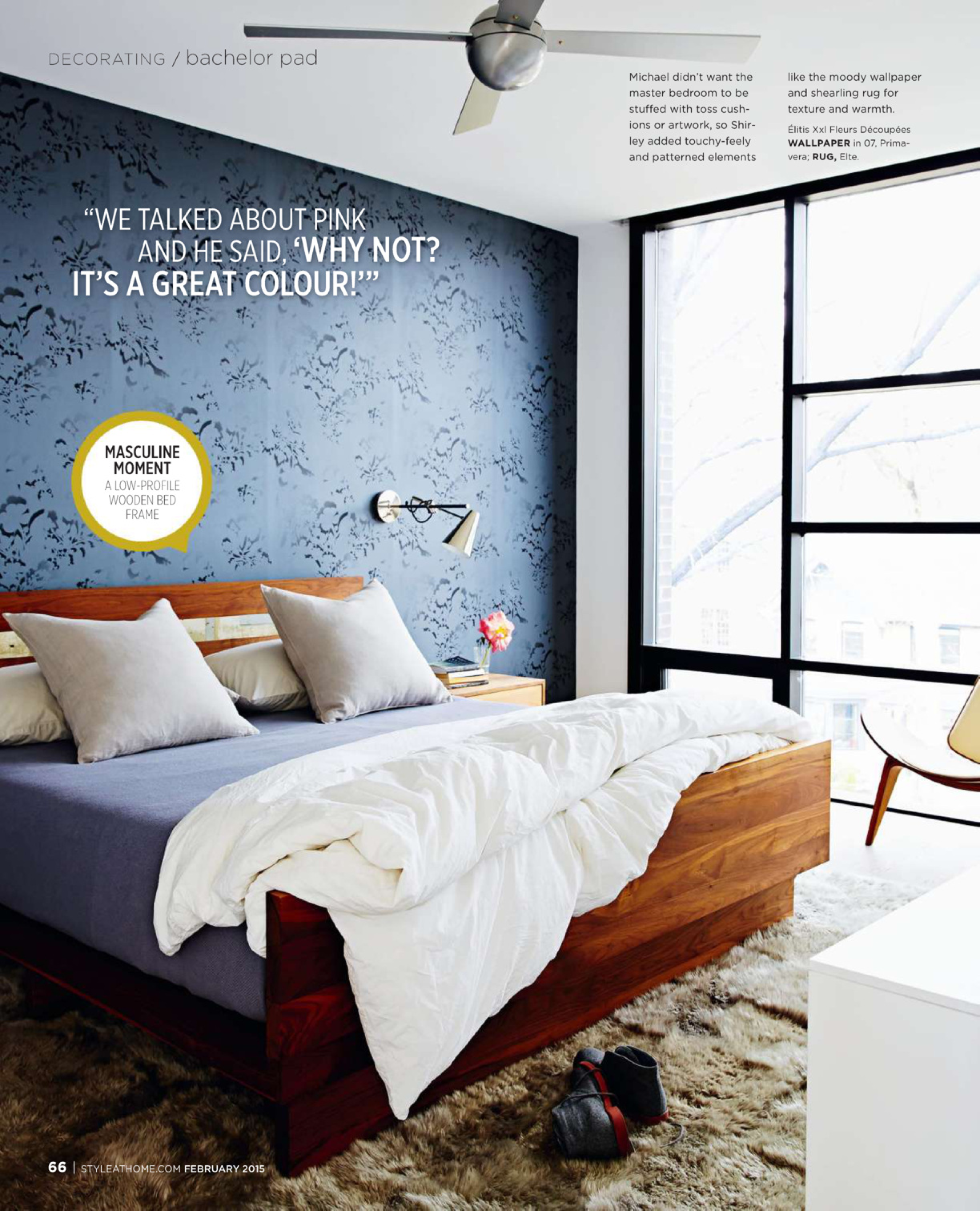
A mix of lacquered MDF and smoky oak cabinetry looks sharp in the crisp kitchen, where Caesarstone and marble add to the luxury. "I didn't want it to feel like this big, solid mass of white cabinetry in the middle of the house, so we broke it up with the dark oak," says designer Shirley Meisels.

Onda **STOOL,** Kiosk Design; black **BOWLS,** Hollace Cluny; black **BOWL** (with red interior), CB2.

**TOP** A simple dining table can look drab in a stark setting, so Shirley energized the scene with a sparkly geometric light fixture. Interest also arises from the combination of materials, from the linen-blend chairs to the wooden table and marble-look platter.

Custom **DINING TABLE,** MHouse; Ligne Roset **DINING CHAIRS,** Kiosk Design; Moooi Raimond **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Klaus; Martha Sturdy **PLATTER,** Hollace Cluny.

**ABOVE** Michael is every bit as dapper as his home.



Michael didn't want the master bedroom to be stuffed with toss cushions or artwork, so Shirley added touchy-feely and patterned elements like the moody wallpaper and shearling rug for texture and warmth.

Élitis Xxl Fleurs Découpées **WALLPAPER** in 07, Primavera; **RUG,** Elte.

"WE TALKED ABOUT PINK AND HE SAID, **'WHY NOT? IT'S A GREAT COLOUR!'"**

**MASCULINE MOMENT**
A LOW-PROFILE WOODEN BED FRAME

To get the feel just right for this from-the-ground-up project that started in 2011, Michael hired Shirley Meisels, a Toronto designer who had worked on his previous home. "Michael's an awesome client. He's an edgy guy with a lot of style who's not afraid to take risks," says Shirley. "He wanted something very modern but not retro. It had to be clean, contemporary and masculine as well." That said, "He didn't want a dark, heavy man-cave atmosphere. We talked about pink and he said, 'Why not? It's a great colour.'"

While designer and client agreed on the lively palette, the entryway was a point of contention. It needed a clear separation from the dining room, but it could not block the view to the windows at the front and back of the house. "We discussed a glass wall, a wooden louvred screen, everything," says Shirley, listing the options. Adds Michael: "We also considered a bookshelf and an aquarium." As it happens, the simplest solution was best. Shirley designed a six-foot-long bench – a sculptural steel piece that looks like art from the living spaces. But from the entryway, it's all function, as guests to Michael's pad – and there are many – use it as a perch for slipping sneakers (or stilettos) on and off when they visit.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

**TOP** It's a closet, it's a den – it's both, actually. Globe-trotting Michael wanted a functional space with room to lay his clothes out to pack – and he can catch up on the news on the flat-screen TV while he does.

Ingo Maurer Zettel'z 5 **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Klaus; **RUG,** Elte.

**ABOVE & LEFT** In the sleek master bath, the light and airy look of the wall-mounted oak vanity and trough-style sink is echoed in the curvy focal-point bathtub, which is enclosed by a glass door.

**TEXT**
BETHANY LYTTLE

**PHOTOGRAPHY**
DONNA GRIFFITH

# NIGHT & DAY

No, he's not a superhero. But what designer and blogger Tim Lam does when he's not working at his day job makes him seem like one.

Streamlined furnishings, such as the sleek sectional and round coffee table, don't crowd the small living room. The rug was selected for its lavender colour, and the artwork was matted in grey to bring depth to the walls.

**DESIGN,** Design Maze, designmaze-tim.blogspot.ca; **SECTIONAL,** IKEA; **COFFEE TABLE, RUG, TRAY,** West Elm; **SIDE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; **ARTWORK,** Carococo.

"SHE WANTED A HOME THAT WOULD REFLECT HER PERSONALITY."

**BELOW & RIGHT** Gold and grey combine beautifully in the airy living room. Designer Tim Lam purposefully chose bigger pieces in solid colours so he could play with pattern in the accessories.

Custom **DRAPERY,** custom yellow lattice **TOSS CUSHION,** Tonic Living; purple thistle **TOSS CUSHION,** HomeSense; custom zebra-print **LUMBAR CUSHION,** Wesley Seto Design.

**BOTTOM LEFT** Tim and homeowner Christine Dang met in Grade 9. "I had a hunch that he was a creative genius," says Christine. "He's always been so passionate."

**BOTTOM RIGHT** The armchair in a corner of the living room is Christine's favourite piece. Tim rescued it from a junk pile and revived it. "Even though it had to be reupholstered, it was still cheaper than buying a brand new chair," he says. Tim cleverly disguised the mechanical panel behind the armchair with DIY artwork that he made by stretching fabric over a wooden frame.

**FLOOR LAMP,** Jonathan Adler; **TOSS CUSHION,** HomeSense.

During the day, Tim Lam is a chartered accountant. By night, he transforms into the designer and blogger behind Design Maze. His mission? To save people from dull bedrooms and boring living rooms. But long before Tim began this dual career, homeowner Christine Dang knew all about his talent. "We went to high school together," she says. "In art class, everyone was always crowding around Tim's work." So when Christine moved into her yawningly generic rental unit in Markham, Ont., the first thing she did was call on him.

Christine presented Tim with a real challenge: a 650-square-foot suite with zero character. And since it was a rental, the makeover couldn't include fresh paint, wallpaper or any major renovations. On top of all that, she had a tight budget.

"She wanted a home that would reflect her personality," says Tim. "To me, that meant pretty, but not too girly." So Tim selected streamlined furnishings and a chic grey, gold and lavender colour scheme while dodging rental rules and restrictions with real ingenuity. "For starters, I stretched leaf-print fabric over a wooden frame to create some visual interest in the living room as well as cover an unsightly panel. It weighed nearly nothing, which meant

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"IT REFLECTS MY TASTE, BUT IT ALSO ATTESTS TO TIM'S CREATIVITY."

**RIGHT, TOP** To save space in the master bedroom, Tim selected a bed with storage underneath. He created the desk/vanity using two dressers and a piece of painted plywood.

**HEADBOARD, SIDE TABLE,** HomeSense; **DRESSERS,** IKEA; **DRAPERY CUSTOMIZATION,** Fine Interiors by Susan.

**FAR RIGHT** There is beautiful natural light in the master bedroom, so Tim made the most of it by placing Christine's workspace against the large windows. A clear Ghost-style chair provides seating without dominating the room.

**TABLE LAMP,** HomeSense; white **TRAY,** SS Print Shop **ARTWORK,** Indigo.

# 4 RENTAL-FRIENDLY DECOR IDEAS

DESIGNER TIM LAM SHARES A FEW OF THE TRICKS HE USED IN THIS RENTAL CONDO.

## DRAPERY

Customized fabric shower curtains are a stylish and affordable alternative to made-to-order drapes.

## DESK/VANITY

A custom-built workspace made from two dressers and a piece of plywood was designed to fit the space.

## FABRIC ACCENTS

Tim stretched patterned fabric over a wooden frame to hide an unsightly mechanical panel.

## WALLPAPER

Foam board was covered in designer wallpaper to create a temporary accent wall.

we could hang it up with sticky hooks." To combat the boring builder beige paint in the den, he crafted an entire wall of foam board covered with geometric hexagon wallpaper. "When Christine moves, she can just pull down the accent wall," he says.

And keeping costs low was no problem for this master of resourcefulness. In an act of brilliance, Tim made bedroom drapes from inexpensive shower curtains. "They only cost $40, and they look amazing," he says. It was the desk/vanity that most impressed Christine. "He got two as-is dressers from IKEA, then attached a piece of painted plywood to the top," she says. "I can do my makeup there in the morning and use it for my laptop at night – it's perfect." Christine says it's her favourite piece in the house: "It reflects my taste, but it also attests to Tim's creativity." If that's not proof that there's no job too big for this design hero, we don't know what is.

**ABOVE** The den's gold and charcoal accent wall is actually several pieces of foam board covered with wallpaper. "It's easily removed," says Tim. The pattern on the inside of the bookcases takes the daring look even further. "I love mixing prints," he says.

Cole & Son Hicks Hexagon **WALLPAPER,** Lee Jofa; **SCONCE,** Jonathan Adler; **ARTWORK,** HomeSense.

**RIGHT** "I was hesitant about placing the table at this angle," says Christine of the den's arrangement. "Now, I love it." The striped rug makes the room feel wider than it actually is.

**SIDECHAIRS,** Sarah Richardson Design; **RUG,** DwellStudio; white **VASE,** Indigo.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# ALWAYS DISCREET:

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## BLADDER SENSITIVITY,

the unintentional passing of urine, is a very common problem that affects millions of people worldwide – especially women. Although published studies suggest that at least one-third of all women over the age of 18 have experienced some degree of urinary incontinence (UI), it is assumed that this is much higher because many women put a lot of effort into hiding their condition.

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# FEBRUARY 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY, LISA PETROLE

## LET IT SHINE

There's no denying it: When snow blankets the streets, our attention turns to the indoors. Furniture is rearranged, splashes of warmth are thrown into every room and tidiness takes hold. Thanks to small updates like these, our living spaces become brighter and truly feel like home.

# TRUE TO FORM

A young Toronto couple tackles the full-scale renovation of their rundown Victorian rowhouse with aplomb.

**TEXT** LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON

**THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE** The second-floor den showcases homeowners Monica Dyer and Drew Elliott's signature inviting mix of classic, clean-lined pieces; varied textural elements (like the linen sofa, leather club chair, salvaged-wood coffee table and layering of rugs); a neutral palette; and bold art. Charcoal grey velvet drapes frame the architecturally intriguing windows.

**DESIGN CONSULTING,** Jennifer Worts Design, jenniferworts.com; Cloud White OC-130 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **WINDOWS** (throughout), Ridley Windows & Doors; **SOFA,** Montauk Sofa; **CLUB CHAIR,** Cocoon Furnishings; **COFFEE TABLE,** Commute Home; sisal **RUG** (throughout), Pottery Barn; *Bounty 3* **ARTWORK,** Katie Pretti.

**LEFT** The couple supplanted a chunky concrete "Stonehenge-esque" fireplace mantel in the living room with a more refined one made of Carrara marble. A chaise, perfect for lounging and reading, takes advantage of the large window. The room's neutral palette and unfussy furnishings enhance its bright and airy quality.

**SOFA, ARMCHAIRS,** Cocoon Furnishings; **CHAISE LONGUE,** Restoration Hardware; **MANTEL,** The Fireplace Shop; kilim **RUG,** Cicem.

**BELOW, LEFT & OPPOSITE** Open to the living room, the dining area is defined by an 18th-century monastery table and white-painted antique chairs juxtaposed with a contemporary dark bronze and glass chandelier. "The chandelier is a nice contrast to the gilt mirror," says Monica. "We like the mix of old and new."

Custom **MIRROR,** Commute Home; **CHANDELIER,** Royal Lighting; **TABLE LAMPS,** Circa Lighting.

THE formula for success can be broken down into time, patience, hard work and a little bit of luck. In the case of homeowner Monica Dyer and the revamp of her charming, sophisticated midtown Toronto house, it also includes pitch-perfect design instincts. Soon after she and her husband, Drew Elliott, moved into this Victorian rowhouse in 2011, they arranged a short consultation with designer Jennifer Worts. "We didn't have any real design experience, so we had Jennifer do a walk-through of the main floor to bounce ideas off her," says Monica. "She assured me that we were heading in the right direction and really encouraged me to go with my gut. So we took it from there."

Monica, who works for UN Women, and Drew, a renewable energy developer, were eager to begin. While house hunting, they had eschewed anything move-in ready in favour of a place they could work on and truly make their own. And for someone willing and able to dive into a renovation, this 2,100-square-foot house – rundown and outdated but teeming with potential – was a dream. "There were a lot of interesting architectural elements that we could work with. And the tall ceilings and huge windows made the space feel airy despite being a typical long and narrow Victorian home," says Monica.

Over the next three years, while they slowly but surely made improvements, the couple ensured the character of

# 5 MONICA'S RENO TAKE-AWAYS

### BEST ADVICE FOR SOMEONE ABOUT TO RENOVATE

Resist the urge to complete a room all at once. Take your time and find pieces you love.

### MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

The high-quality, energy-efficient windows that maintain the style and integrity of this historical home.

### BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

If you fall in love with a piece because of its unique shape and style, refinish it so it's just right for your space.

### FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

The sisal Pottery Barn rugs throughout the house are affordable, great for layering and warm up any space.

### BIGGEST REGRET

Installing ebony hardwood flooring in a high-traffic area. It shows all the dirt.

BEFORE

In the kitchen's eat-in area, the couple replaced the sliding glass door with a combination of windows and a glass-panelled door, making room for the L-shaped banquette. They found the farmhouse table at an antiques market.

Vintage **DINING CHAIRS,** Commute Home; custom **BANQUETTE & FLOATING SHELVES,** JMAC Productions.

the home remained intact. Its architectural details, such as the 10-inch-high baseboards, distressed banisters and chunky window frames, were restored or replicated and replaced. "The original windows were still there from the 1880s, so the house needed all new ones," says Monica. "But we kept the original shape – the nice, big arches."

By respecting the house's history, the couple created a backdrop that exemplifies old-world charm, which sets off their well-considered eclectic mix of furnishings, artwork and collectibles. "We took our time decorating the house," says Monica, noting the only items they brought from their former home, a loft in Toronto's trendy west end, were a sofa, coffee table and desk. "We didn't want the house to feel brand new and cold, like we had purchased everything at once from the same store." Creating a layered, curated aesthetic full of personality and warmth meant filling the interior with a blend of new classic pieces and preloved items found while patiently trolling antiques shops and flea markets, searching online or collecting while travelling to places like Morocco, Turkey, South Africa and Peru.

Monica enjoys the thrill of the hunt, and her resolve always seems to pay off. Even when she spotted the perfect dining chairs in a decorating magazine but noticed with slight disappointment that they came from an antiques store and weren't readily available, she didn't give up. "I was determined, and I searched for them for months and found similar ones online," says Monica. "They were mint green with a mint green floral pattern on the seat, so I just had them redone."

It's determination like this that resulted in an elegant, character-filled home, which proves that going with what you love is also a key ingredient for design success.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

**LEFT** Featuring Shaker-style cabinetry and granite countertops, the kitchen was redone by the previous owners. To update the space for better continuity with the rest of the house, Monica and Drew painted the formerly brown walls white, replaced a blue-and-metallic-tiled backsplash with white subway tiles, changed the hardware and added a chef-worthy range.

**RIGHT** In the third-floor master bedroom, elements like the traditional wing bed, the layered rugs and Palm Beach-style table lamp create a cozy, elegant look. An antique suzani from Uzbekistan adds colour.

**BED FRAME,** Restoration Hardware; **MIRROR,** CB2; antique embroidered **SUZANI,** Rug Rabbit; **TABLE LAMP,** Ro Sham Beaux.

“WE DIDN’T APPROACH DECORATING OUR HOME WITH A CERTAIN DESIGN AESTHETIC IN MIND OR ADHERE TO ANY STYLE. IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO FEEL LIKE THE HOUSE REFLECTED US.”

A window seat offers a comfy spot to lounge in the master bedroom. With three drawers, it also serves as storage for clothes and linens. A linen swivel chair, an antique Chinese side table and a custom-made pouffe present another charming place to hang out and read.

Custom built-in **WINDOW SEAT**, JMAC Productions; **SWIVEL CHAIR**, Cocoon Furnishings; custom **POUFFE**, Lovintage Finds; **SCONCES**, Restoration Hardware.

**TEXT** WENDY HELFENBAUM

**PHOTOGRAPHY** LISA PETROLE

**STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT & MORGAN LINDSAY

In the master bedroom, a sliding barn door crafted from distressed wood is offset by the eclectic antler chandelier in the stairwell, which homeowner and designer Paula Velez spray-painted with five coats of splashy orange for a modern lodge look.

**DESIGN,** Paula Velez Interior Design, paulavelezdesign.com; **CONTRACTING,** Van Harten Carpentry; custom sliding **BARN DOOR,** Bill Merlin; hardwood **FLOORING** (throughout), Amazon Hardwood Center.

# OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Designer Paula Velez's 112-year-old home gets a modern-rustic makeover, in which cherished keepsakes and new-found favourites happily coexist in an eclectic mix of styles.

The living room's wood-burning fireplace features a dramatic Italian steel tile surround and is complemented by the sculptural coffee table. "I love the modern triangular shape – it's organic and classic," says Paula, who topped it with antique shoe moulds for contrast.

Steven and Chris **SOFA,** Decor-Rest; **COFFEE TABLE,** Nuevo; **FIREPLACE SURROUND TILES,** Ciot; custom **DRAPERY,** Gavinchi; **RUG,** West Elm; **TABLE LAMP, TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense.

After falling in love with a pair of handmade woven stools she found in New York City, Paula brought them home to use together as a coffee table in the family room, her most-used space in the house.

**SOFA,** Shelter; Napoleon electric **FIREPLACE,** AM Group Heating & Cooling; cowhide **RUG,** Elite Living; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Restoration Hardware; **POUFFES, TOSS CUSHIONS, ANIMAL HEAD,** HomeSense.

ON a quaint, leafy street in midtown Toronto, a vibrant orange door on a charming whitewashed brick home is the only clue to the study in contrasts that lies within.

Designer Paula Velez purchased the place two years ago, after combing the neighbourhood for its oldest homes. Built in 1903, the narrow, 2,800-square-foot three-floor house was cramped, dark and outdated. But Paula – who moved to Toronto from Colombia 14 years ago – saw its potential as an airy space that blended the building's history with a modern vibe.

During a nine-month renovation, the walls separating her kitchen, living room and dining room came down, creating one large open area flooded with light – a move that left the electricians scratching their heads over where to relocate the light switches and plugs. "These are the things that, as designers, we don't think much about, because we're seeing the whole concept," says Paula with a laugh.

Adding a main-floor powder room and a coat closet near the front entrance proved a logistical nightmare for the engineer. "This was the biggest

## 5 PAULA'S RENO TAKE-AWAYS

### BEST ADVICE FOR SOMEONE ABOUT TO RENOVATE

Count on the project taking longer than you'd expect. Things never go as smoothly as you think they will.

### MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

The wireless ceiling speaker system makes my home a beautiful jewellery box with music!

### BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

Pairing an industrial concrete sink with a traditional claw-foot tub in my master bath.

### FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

The reclaimed barn beams scored at a farm outside Toronto add character to the family room's vaulted ceiling.

### BIGGEST REGRET

Not making my bedroom closet bigger! It always seems larger before you move in.

BEFORE

**TOP LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT** The new kitchen features dark grey lower cabinetry and floating metal shelves that showcase favourite pottery and collectibles from Paula's travels. The white honeycomb tile backsplash stretches up to the ceiling, lending height to the room. The adjustable stools can be used at the island for quick breakfasts or lowered to serve as extra seating around the dining table.

**COUNTERTOPS,** Caesarstone Canada; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Ciot; **STOOLS,** Reemka Imports; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Restoration Hardware.

**ABOVE** Paula updated a tired wooden chair in the office with cheerful yellow paint. "You don't have to spend millions of dollars for great design," she says. "Be creative, use what you have and love your pieces." The artwork, made by her aunt in Colombia, is another favourite.

York Wallcoverings Dolce Vita Grata **WALLPAPER** in CM2381, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **DESK,** IKEA; **TASK LAMP,** West Elm.

**BOTTOM LEFT** Paula saw that something was missing in her large white dining room: The walls were too stark. "I happened to have three giant coffee bags I'd brought back from Colombia, so I framed them," she says.

**DINING TABLE, BOWL,** Restoration Hardware; **DINING CHAIRS,** Reemka Imports; custom sliding **BARN DOOR,** Bill Merlin.

**ABOVE & BOTTOM RIGHT** A rustic industrial-style concrete sink ("it looks like something cows drink from on a farm," says Paula) is juxtaposed with a sculptural antique-look bathtub ("I love that it's traditional and romantic") to create the ultimate retreat in her master bath. Antlers used as towel hooks reference the others throughout the home.

Victoria + Albert **BATHTUB, FIXTURES,** Marcon Kitchen and Bath; **WALL TILES, FLOOR TILES,** Ciot; **MIRROR,** Restoration Hardware; **SCONCE,** Sescolite.

**TOP RIGHT** Paula calls this 1940s chair and its matching companion (not shown) "The Survivors" after they endured nine months surrounded by plaster dust and power tools. "I bought them from the previous owners, but I had nowhere to store them. Every time I checked on the house, these chairs were in a different place – I thought they'd get destroyed, but they made it," she says. "They're now in my master bedroom."

Eco Chic II EC50000 **WALLPAPER,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **SIDE TABLE, RUG,** HomeSense.

challenge, because its solution impacted all three levels," recalls Paula. "We had to alter the design many times before we found the right answer – to change the direction of the stairs and add a glass railing to keep the area feeling open and spacious.

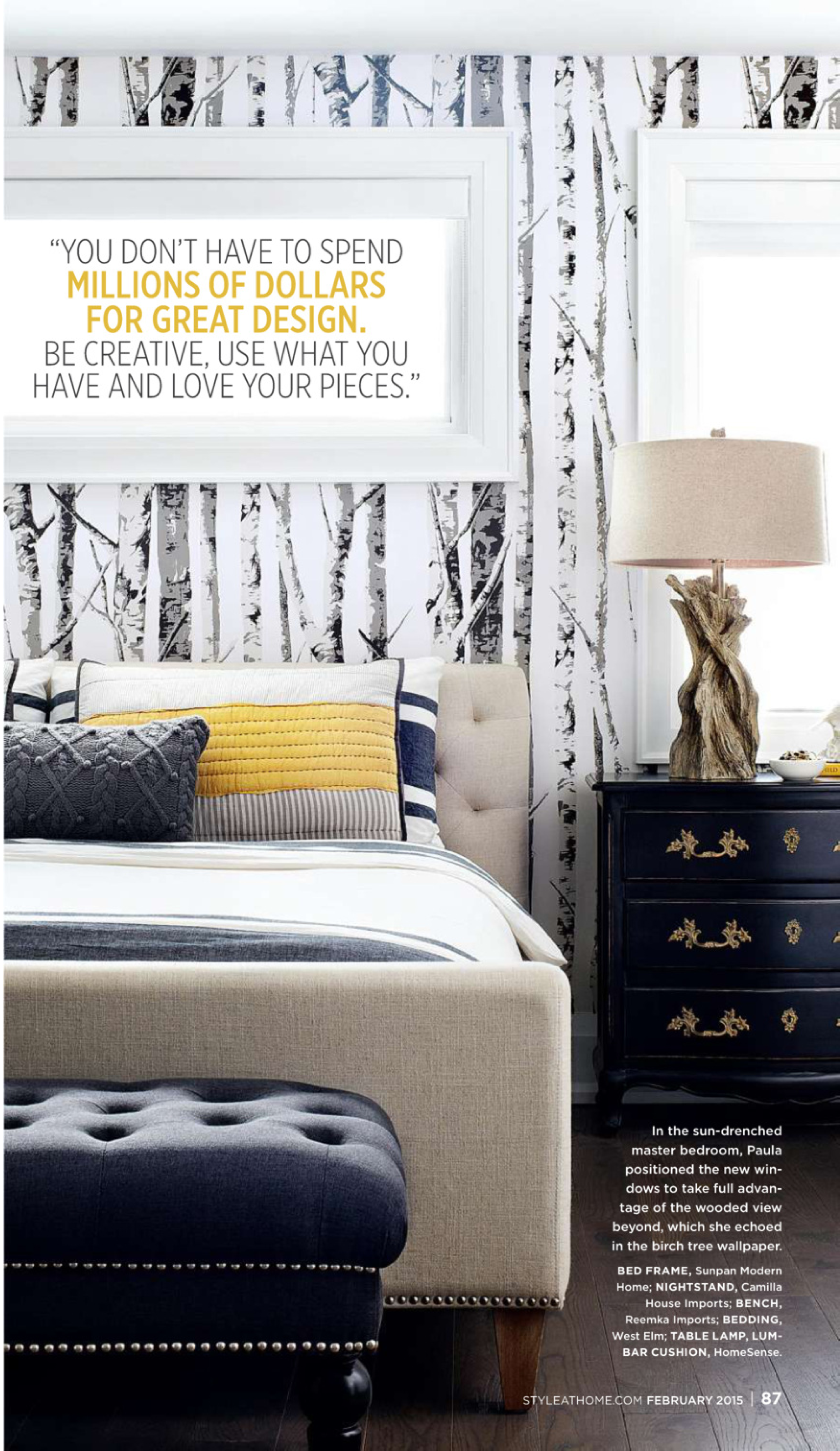
"I'm a big fan of the contrast of reclaimed wood and glass – it makes a space airy, bright and clean," says Paula of the materials repeated throughout her home, giving it that modern-rustic vibe. The sunken family room's weathered barnwood beams from a nearby farm complement another glass railing leading into the space, and the dining room's sliding barn door opens to reveal a glass-walled office.

Paula calls the floating office, her "jewellery box." "It's one of my favourite rooms in the house," she says, "because the bright space is on display from the vantage point of the family room and it never feels closed in." It was the only room Paula left mostly untouched by the reno.

Perhaps the biggest change was to the top floor, which was gutted to make way for a spacious master bedroom – and a dream ensuite bath – where new and expanded windows take full advantage of the outdoor scenery. Paula can also take in the view of the gallery wall across from her bed, which features family photos and inspirational quotes. "Each day, when I open my eyes, I see the people I love," she says. The photos share the space with a plaque that reads, "Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful." It's a motto duly demonstrated in this chic house of contrasts.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND **MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR GREAT DESIGN.** BE CREATIVE, USE WHAT YOU HAVE AND LOVE YOUR PIECES."



In the sun-drenched master bedroom, Paula positioned the new windows to take full advantage of the wooded view beyond, which she echoed in the birch tree wallpaper.

**BED FRAME,** Sunpan Modern Home; **NIGHTSTAND,** Camilla House Imports; **BENCH,** Reemka Imports; **BEDDING,** West Elm; **TABLE LAMP, LUMBAR CUSHION,** HomeSense.

# FRESH START

This vignette in the family room is testament to homeowner Jenifer Glover's personalized approach to decorating: "These are things I've picked up over time because I love them."

**DESIGN,** J.G. Interiors, jginteriors.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** Spragge + Company Architects; **CONTRACTING,** Diamond Building Developments; Halo OC-46 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; *White Room II* **ARTWORK** (right) by Hanna Ruminski, Art Interiors.

**OPPOSITE** The design of the sun-filled family room had a surprising jumping-off point: the television. "With the TV in place on a custom cabinet, I designed the shelves above it and repeated them and the cabinet on the other side of the fireplace," says Jenifer. "This symmetry allowed me to fill the opposite space with artwork that balances out the television."

**DOORS, WINDOWS,** Bliss Nor-Am; **SOFA,** Restoration Hardware; leather **BENCH,** Camilla House Imports; *My Brother's Dyslexia* **ARTWORK** by Maca Suazo (above fireplace), Canvas Gallery.

# A time-worn Toronto house is transformed into a lively family home with a welcoming design.

**TEXT** CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT & MORGAN LINDSAY

"We moved so we could have a pool," says homeowner and decorator Jenifer Glover of J.G. Interiors. It was 2008, and she and her husband, Norm Brownstein, were keen to create a backyard oasis in the city for their four children: Gabriele, 15, Jackson, 13, Hayden, 10, and Maya, 7. So when a house with pool potential in a prime Toronto neighbourhood came up for sale, they

took the plunge, even though it was far from perfect. "We loved the location and the lot, which had space for a pool, but we didn't love the house," says Jenifer. "It was a rundown 1930s build with faux Tudor features. Our plan was to freshen up the rooms with paint to tide us over until the eventual tear-down and rebuild." While the pool construction went according to plan – digging started seven days after they gained possession of the 4,000-square-foot house – the tear-down didn't. "The longer we lived in the home, the more we realized there were things we loved about it, like the generous front hall and a well-worn wooden banister," says Jenifer. "Though it probably would've been more cost-efficient to knock it down, I'm glad we didn't."

Instead, they hired Toronto-based architect Tom Spragge to help reconfigure and reimagine the space as a family home. "We pretty much went right down to the studs and started all over again," says Jenifer. "We always have people over, so I designed a light and welcoming space with a more-the-merrier feel."

Wooden accents and sophisticated accessories infuse the new-build kitchen with old-world charm. The gold-framed mirrors reflect one of Jenifer's favourite inspirations: restaurant design. "I love sitting in restaurants that have mirrors angled downward – the light and the images that bounce back are wonderful." Secondhand bentwood stools and an elaborate chandelier from France have a rich vintage feel that tempers the room's white surfaces. The steel window frames and mullions were painted black to mimic the industrial appearance of the French doors.

**WINDOWS,** Bliss Nor-Am; **CABINETRY,** KGA Kitchens; **COUNTERTOPS,** Asia Marbles; **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** Crystal Tile & Marble; Bertazzoni **RANGE,** Caplan's Appliances; **CHANDELIER,** The Door Store; **BOWL** (on island), Elte; **BREADBOX,** West Elm.

## 5 JENIFER'S RENO TAKE-AWAYS

### BEST ADVICE FOR SOMEONE ABOUT TO RENOVATE

Do your research and be prepared for bumps in the road.

### MOST WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

Black steel-framed windows and doors define the space.

### BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEA

I nixed upper cabinets in the kitchen, opting for restaurant-style mirrors tilted downward.

### FAVOURITE BUDGET FIND

The mirrors: The frames were $50 each, then I had the mirrors cut to size.

### BIGGEST REGRET

Installing radiant floor heating in the kitchen and family room – cast-iron radiators would have worked better.

BEFORE

Crafted from the same walnut as the kitchen island, the family room's custom cabinets and shelves are both stylish and practical. "The wood ties these rooms together while really warming up the space," says Jenifer.

Custom **CABINET & SHELVES**, KGA Kitchens; *May* **ARTWORK** by David Lee, Art Interiors; **THROW** (in basket), EQ3; orb **SCULPTURE**, West Elm.

**RIGHT** A rustic-look dining table in the kitchen's eat-in area holds up to a house full of kids because, according to Jenifer, "it only gets better with age." The space features framed artwork created by the couple's children. "It's elements like kids' art that turn a house into a home," she says.

Wimborne White 239 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **DINING TABLE,** IKEA; **DINING CHAIRS,** Pottery Barn; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Absolutely.

**LEFT, TOP** Lively patterned toss cushions dress up the family room's classic linen sofa.

Madeline Weinrib **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Y & Co.

**LEFT, MIDDLE** Jenifer relaxes on a leather bench in the family room.

**LEFT, BOTTOM** Anything but oppressive, a dramatic black ceiling glams up the formal dining room. "It feels like the night sky," says Jenifer. With leather and chrome dining chairs, a vintage-look brass pendant light and a traditional rug, the room has an edgy eclectic vibe.

Wimborne White 239 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Jet Black 2120-10 **CEILING PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WINDOWS,** Ridley Windows & Doors; custom **DINING TABLE,** Cabinet; **DINING CHAIRS,** Palazzetti; **RUG, BOWL,** Elte; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Decorum Decorative Finds.

## "WE ALWAYS HAVE PEOPLE OVER, SO I DESIGNED A LIGHT AND WELCOMING SPACE WITH A MORE-THE-MERRIER FEEL."

The "more" part of the equation – an addition to the back of the house and an extended basement – tacked on almost 1,000 square feet to the footprint, including a kitchen that's hosted up to 40 guests. The "merrier" part reflects not only how conducive the new design is to entertaining but also Jenifer's knack for creating interiors that make sense. "Whenever I had to decide on elements like materials and furnishings, I would ask myself: 'Does this hold up to an adult cocktail party as well as the kids' birthday parties?' If it ticked both boxes, I knew it would work." Her winning formula permeates the space, from its bohemian mix of high-and-low items to the sturdy and stylish white oak flooring to versatile pieces like the sophisticated easy-to-clean mohair armchair in the family room. It's fitting that a house originally considered only for its pool possibilities was transformed through a hands-on redesign that went swimmingly.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

# the $20 DINNER

We all know it's not easy to come up with delicious healthy meals night after night, and when you've tightened your belt to accommodate recent holiday spending, it's even harder. But these inventive recipes will solve those budget blahs. Fresh, comforting and family friendly, they each cost an average of $5 per person to make. You're welcome!

**RECIPES & FOOD STYLING** CLAIRE STUBBS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MAYA VISNYEI | **PROP STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

*pasta with ham & leeks*

PATTERNED NAPKIN, PEHR DESIGNS, PEHRDESIGNS.COM

## SHIITAKE & BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP WITH SOBA NOODLES

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | SERVES **4**

- 1 small butternut squash
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 2" piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely julienned
- 6 oz shiitake mushroom caps, sliced
- 6 oz cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 4 cups mushroom or vegetable broth
- 3 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp rice wine or sake
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 1½ cups shelled edamame
- 1 pkg soba or udon noodles

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Cut the butternut squash into 1" slices. Peel to remove the skin and then cut the flesh into 1" cubes, discarding the seeds. Toss the cubes with the vegetable oil and roast on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet for 30 to 35 minutes, until the squash is tender and lightly caramelized.

Heat the sesame oil and butter together in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and ginger and stir-fry for 1 minute. Add the mushrooms and sauté until most of the moisture has evaporated and the mushrooms are beginning to brown, about 8 minutes.

Add the mushroom broth, hoisin and soy sauces and rice wine and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the roasted squash, green onions and edamame and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes more.

Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Drop the soba noodles into the water and stir to prevent them from sticking together. Cook according to the package directions or until just tender. Drain the noodles in a colander and rinse under warm water.

To serve, divide the noodles among four deep serving bowls. Ladle the soup over the noodles and serve piping hot.

*shiitake & butternut squash soup with soba noodles*

BACKSPLASH TILES, ANTICA TILE & STONE, ANTICA.CA

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## LAMB SHEPHERD'S PIE

PREP & COOK TIME **2 HOURS** | SERVES **6**

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 sweet onion, diced
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 2 lbs coarsely ground lamb
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 ripe tomatoes, diced
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbsp HP Sauce
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1½ cups beef broth
- 6 Yukon Gold potatoes
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter

Heat the vegetable oil in a very large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion and rosemary and sauté for 1 minute. Add the carrots and parsnips and sauté for 18 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender and lightly caramelized. Transfer the vegetables to a plate.

Add the ground lamb to the skillet, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon; cook until lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain off all but 1 tablespoon of oil. Sprinkle the flour over the meat; stir in the tomatoes, Worcestershire and HP sauces, salt, pepper, broth and reserved vegetables and let simmer for 30 minutes.

While the lamb mixture is cooking, peel the potatoes and cut into large even-sized pieces. Place the potatoes in a large pot of cool well-salted water and bring to a boil. Cook for 22 to 25 minutes, until the potatoes are easily pierced with a knife. Drain the potatoes in a large colander and steam dry for 2 minutes. Return to the pot and mash with a potato masher until smooth. Stir in the butter and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Spoon the lamb mixture into a 10-cup casserole dish or six individual 2-cup casserole dishes and smooth the top with a spoon.

If you're feeling fancy, you can pipe the potatoes decoratively over the lamb using a large piping bag fitted with a ¾" tip. Alternatively, spoon the mashed potatoes evenly over the lamb and rough up the surface with a fork. Bake in the oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until the pie is hot and the potatoes are golden. Serve immediately.

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SLURP A FULL SERVING OF VEGETABLES.

HARVEST VEGETABLE SOUP

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*crispy chicken tacos with quick pickle slaw & spicy mayo*

## PASTA WITH HAM & LEEKS

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | SERVES **4**

- 1 lb short pasta
- 3 leeks
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 12 oz best-quality traditional smoked ham (ideally leg meat)
- 1 cup 35% cream
- 2 tbsp grainy Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh chives
- 2 oz freshly grated Parmesan (about ½ cup)

Put a large pot of salted water on to boil. Cook the pasta according to the package directions, subtracting 1 minute from the cooking time (the pasta will finish cooking in the sauce). Drain the pasta, reserving ⅓ cup of the cooking water, and steam dry the pasta in a colander.

Meanwhile, trim the leeks, discarding the dark green ends and finely slicing the white and pale green parts into rings. Rinse well under cool water to remove any grit.

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add the leeks and sauté for 5 to 6 minutes, gently stirring occasionally to prevent the leeks from browning, until the leeks are bright green and tender. Chop the ham into bite-sized pieces and add to the leek mixture.

Add the reserved pasta water to the leek mixture along with the cream, Dijon and chives, and heat gently. Add the cooked pasta and the Parmesan to the skillet and stir together until thoroughly combined, about 1 minute. Serve immediately.

## CRISPY CHICKEN TACOS WITH QUICK PICKLE SLAW & SPICY MAYO

PREP & COOK TIME **2 HOURS** | SERVES **4**

### Quick Pickle Slaw

- 1 cup shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup shredded green cabbage
- 1 carrot, peeled and shredded
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 2 mini cucumbers, sliced
- 3 tbsp rice vinegar
- 2 tsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- ½ tsp sea salt

### Spicy Mayo

- ½ cup best-quality real mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp sriracha hot chili sauce

### Crispy Chicken

- 4 skinless boneless chicken thighs
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
- ½ tsp sea salt
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup panko
- 2 cups vegetable oil for frying

- 8 small corn tortillas
- 8 sprigs fresh cilantro for garnish

To prepare the quick pickle slaw, place the red and green cabbage, carrot, green onions and cucumbers in a medium bowl. Toss together with the rice vinegar, lime juice, brown sugar and salt; set aside.

To prepare the spicy mayo, stir together the mayonnaise and sriracha in a small bowl; set aside.

To prepare the crispy chicken, cut each chicken thigh into four pieces of roughly the same size. Place the chicken in a bowl and add the garlic, lime juice, ginger and salt, stirring to combine. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for an hour to let the chicken marinate.

Place the flour, egg and panko in three separate shallow bowls. Remove the chicken from the marinade and dredge each piece first in the flour, then in the egg and finally in the panko to cover completely.

In a large heavy-bottomed pot, heat 1" of the vegetable oil to 350°F (it's best to use a thermometer, but the oil is ready when a panko crumb sizzles and toasts in the hot oil). When the oil is at temperature, add the coated pieces of chicken, six at a time, and fry until golden, turning carefully with tongs until all sides are crisp, about 3 to 4 minutes. Ensure that the pieces are cooked through by cutting into one and checking that it is no longer pink inside. Remove the chicken from the oil and place on paper towels to drain while the remaining pieces are cooking.

To assemble each taco, pile some of the quick pickle slaw on a tortilla and top with two pieces of crispy chicken. Drizzle with some of the spicy mayo and garnish with a sprig of fresh cilantro.

# fortified wines

Fortified wines are the pours of the moment. Angela Aiello, wine expert and founder of the iYellow Wine Club, tells us why.

Fortified wines, such as vermouth, sherry, port and Madeira, can be served before a meal as aperitifs in stylish glasses like these Krista Port-Sweet ones ($5 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca) on their own or in a cocktail. Whether you're relaxing by the fire or entertaining a crowd, they'll add a sophisticated note to your next night in.

## VERMOUTH

Classic vermouth is dry and bitter with the addition of herbs and spices; the one you buy today has likely been adjusted for sweetness. It's used in many classic cocktails, including the martini, manhattan and negroni.

**CLASSIC GIN MARTINI:** FILL A SHAKER WITH ICE; ADD 4 OUNCES GIN AND 1 OUNCE DRY VERMOUTH. SHAKE AND STRAIN INTO TWO MARTINI GLASSES. GARNISH WITH GREEN OLIVES.

SDC RUBY PORT, $17

DOLIN VERMOUTH ROUGE, $14

ALVEAR MEDIUM DRY AMONTILLADO SHERRY, $13

## PORT

Made in Portugal's Douro Valley with a mix of indigenous grapes and brandy, port's style is reflective of its colour – ruby, tawny or white, for example. Its taste is sweet and a little savoury. If a port is labelled vintage, it contains wines from a single year.

**WHITE PORT AND SODA:** FILL A SHORT GLASS WITH ICE; ADD 1 OUNCE PORT, THEN TOP WITH SODA WATER. GARNISH WITH A LEMON SLICE.

## SHERRY

Sherry is a barrel-aged Spanish fortified wine made of white grapes. Although out of fashion for a while, it's back in vogue thanks to the cool cocktail crowd. It comes in dry, dark and sweet styles and is traditionally served in a copita, a tulip-shaped sherry glass.

**SIMPLE SYRUP SUBSTITUTE:** TRY A SWEET SHERRY IN PLACE OF SIMPLE SYRUP TO SWEETEN A DARK LIQUOR.

## MADEIRA

A fortified wine made on Portugal's Madeira island, Madeira is heated then cask-aged; its colour ranges from amber to deep brown. Historically, this wine was shipped on boats and would warm up during the voyage, giving it a unique flavour. Today, the production process involves heating the wine – in fact, the finest bottles are aged for at least 20 years and warmed in natural sunlight.

**RECIPE PERK-UP:** PROVIDES A RICH FLAVOUR TO BOTH SWEET AND SAVOURY DISHES.

CASA DOS VINHOS MADEIRA, $20

## SERVING TIPS

- Serve fortified wines at 14°C in vintage glassware or beautiful rocks glasses.
- Serve port in a decanter. As a rule of thumb, the decanter should always be passed to the left.
- Once opened, fortified wines can be stored for up to a year in a cool, dark spot.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA



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- Eva L, Sweden

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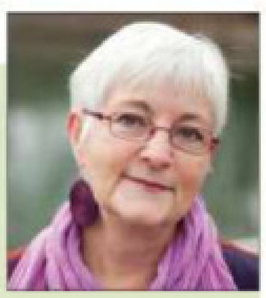

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- Lynn, Canada

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# style, etc.

Each issue, assistant editor Brittany Devenyi compiles the best decorating ideas, DIY projects, book reviews, where-to-buy info and more from our pages.

## STYLE NEWS

project of the month FROM PAGE 21

**MATERIALS**

• Pliers • Footstool • Sandpaper • Latex primer • Paintbrush • Latex paint • Piece of muslin (optional) • Scissors • Large cable-knit sweater • Staple gun

*Style at Home* managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien shows you how to repurpose a cable-knit sweater to upholster a footstool.

Collonade Gray SW 7641 **FOOTSTOOL PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

**1** Using pliers, remove the staples and old fabric from the footstool. If the upholstery foam and batting are in poor condition, remove them, too.

**2** Lightly sand the footstool legs to scuff the surface. Apply a coat of primer to the legs and let fully dry. Then apply two coats of paint and let fully dry before upholstering. Add new foam and batting if you removed them.

**3** Optional: If the sweater has a large weave and you can see the batting through it, upholster the footstool in a piece of muslin first.

**4** Cut the back of the sweater as well as the backs of the sleeves down the middle. Then cut off half the length of the sleeves (approximately at the elbows).

**5** Lay the cut sweater right side down on a flat surface. Place the footstool upside down in the centre of the sweater. Pull the edges of the sweater up toward the footstool. Put a staple in the centre of each side of the footstool's bottom to secure the sweater in place. Then continue to staple the sweater along each side, pulling it taut as you go. Check the top of the footstool every so often to ensure the cable-knit pattern is straight. Trim off any excess fabric, but make sure to leave about a 1" allowance so the sweater doesn't unravel.

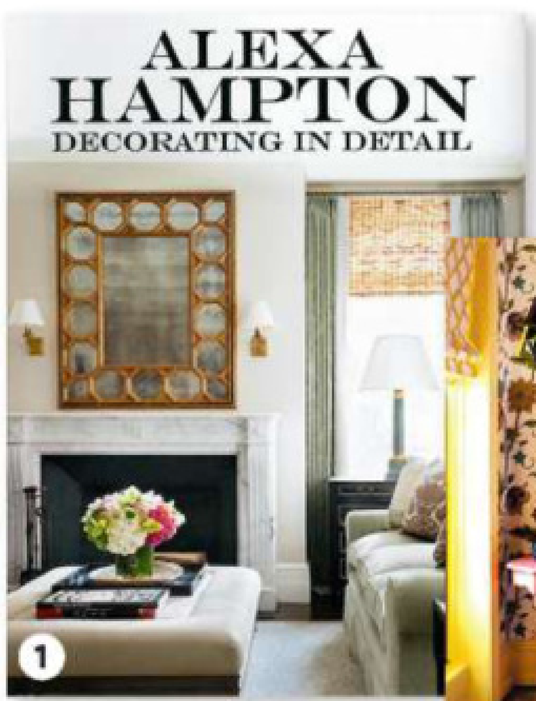
## ON OUR MUST-READ LIST

celebrity design books

**1** We live in an age when even the most impressive interiors can easily be replicated. That's why New York City-based designer Alexa Hampton believes the beauty of decorating lies in the little things. *Decorating in Detail* takes you through seven stunning residences, each one more unique than the next. Potter Style, $57.

**2** Design expert Susanna Salk isn't one for convention. In *Decorate Fearlessly!*, the author encourages readers to stray from design norms and celebrate their personal style. Expect to find inspiring photos and quotes from top designers like Jonathan Adler and Mary McDonald. Rizzoli New York, $45.

**3** Creativity always has a source. For celebrity designer Kathryn Ireland, it comes from travelling to places like rural England and Los Angeles to visit friends. *Inspired By...* is a snapshot of the homes that have influenced the author's work, and of how each space reflects who lives there. Gibbs Smith, $54.

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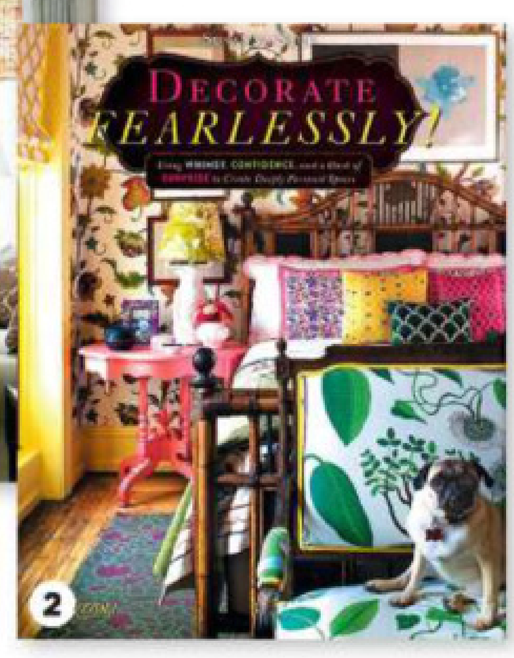


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3

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PROJECT)

## SOURCE GUIDE

### A

**Absolutely**
absolutelyinc.com

**Ali Interiors**
647-988-2344

**Amazon Hardwood Center**
hardwoodcenter.ca

**AM Group Heating & Cooling**
amgrouphc.com

**Angelica Homes**
angelicahomes.com

**Art Interiors**
artinteriors.ca

**Asia Marbles**
asiamarbles.com

### B

**Belfioré Collection**
belfiorecollection.com

**Bend**
bendgoods.com

**Benjamin Moore**
benjaminmoore.ca

**Bill Merlin**
416-525-4844

**Bliss Nor-Am**
blissnoram.com

### C

**Cabinet**
cabinetfurniture.ca

**Caesarstone Canada**
caesarstone.ca

**Camilla House Imports***
camillahouse.com

**Canvas Gallery**
canvasgallery.ca

**Caplan's Appliances**
caplans.ca

**Caravan Pacific**
caravan-pacific.com

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**Carpet Mill**
carpetmill.ca

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**Ceragres**
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**Cicem**
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**Ciot**
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**Circa Lighting**
circalighting.com

**Cocoon Furnishings**
cocoonfurnishings.ca

**Commute Home**
commutehome.com

**Crate and Barrel**
crateandbarrel.ca

**Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics***
crownwallpaper.com

**Crystal Tile & Marble**
crystaltilemarble.com

**Cybele Young**
cybeleyoung.ca

### D

**Danish Design Store**
danishdesignstore.com

**Decor-Rest**
decor-rest.com

**Decorum Decorative Finds**
416-966-6829

**Designers Collaborative**
416-533-0916

**Design Maze**
designmaze-tim.blogspot.ca

**Diamond Building Developments**
416-953-5885

**Donghia***
donghia.com

**The Door Store**
thedoorstore.ca

**DwellStudio**
dwellstudio.com

### E

**Elite Living***
eliteliving.ca

**Elte**
elte.com

**Elte Market**
eltemkt.com

**Endes Design**
endesdesign.com

**EQ3**
eq3.com

### F

**Farrow & Ball**
farrow-ball.com

**Fine Interiors by Susan**
fineinteriorsby-susan.com

**The Fireplace Shop**
thefireplaceshop.com

### G

**Gavinchi**
gavinchi.ca

### H

**Helen Griffiths & Associates, Fine Arts**
helengriffiths-finearts.com

**Hollace Cluny**
hollacecluny.ca

**Holt Renfrew**
holtrenfrew.com

**Home Hardware**
homehardware.ca

**HomeSense**
homesense.ca

### I

**IKEA**
ikea.ca

**Indigo**
indigo.ca

### J

**Jennifer Worts Design**
jenniferworts.com

**J.G. Interiors**
jginteriors.com

**JMAC Productions**
jmacproductions.ca

**Jonathan Adler**
jonathanadler.com

### K

**Katie Pretti**
katiebondpretti.com

**KGA Kitchens**
kgakitchens.com

**Kiosk Design**
kioskdesign.ca

**Klaus**
klausn.com

**Kravet Canada***
kravetcanada.com

### L

**Lee Jofa***
leejofa.com

**Loch Gallery**
lochgallery.com

**Lovintage Finds**
lovintagefinds.etsy.com

### M

**Marble Tech**
416-679-1969

**Marcon Kitchen and Bath**
marconbath.com

**MHouse**
mhouseinc.com

**Montauk Sofa**
montauksofa.com

**Multiflex**
multiflexinc.com

### N

**Nicole Draperies**
nicoledraperies.com

**Nuevo**
nuevoliving.com

### O

**Odon Wagner Gallery**
odonwagnergallery.com

### P

**Palazzetti**
palazzetti.ca

**Paula Velez Interior Design**
paulavelezdesign.com

**Pehr Designs**
pehrdesigns.com

**Pimlico**
pimlicogallery.com

**PMF Plumbing Supplies**
pmfplumbing.com

**Pottery Barn**
potterybarn.com

**Primavera***
primavera.ca

### Q

**Quasi Modo Modern Furniture**
quasimodomodern.com

**Qummunicate**
qummunicate.com

### R

**RA Design Build**
radesignbuild.ca

**Reemka Imports***
reemkaimports.com

**Restoration Hardware**
rh.com

**Richelieu Hardware***
richelieu.com

**Ridley Windows & Doors**
ridley-windows.com

**Robert Allen***
robertallendesign.com

**Ro Sham Beaux**
ro-sham-beaux.com

**Royal Lighting**
royallighting.com

**Rug Rabbit**
rugrabbit.com

### S

**Sage Design Studio**
sagedesignstudio.ca

**Sarah Richardson Design**
sarahrichardson-design.com

**Sears**
sears.ca

**Sescolite**
sescolite.com

**Shelter**
shelterfurniture.ca

**Spragge + Company Architects**
spraggearchitects.com

**Stacey Van Berkel**
staceyvanberkel.com

**Stone Tile International**
woodbystonetile.com

**Stoneworx**
stoneworx.com

**Sunpan Modern Home***
sunpan.com

### T

**Tonic Living**
tonicliving.com

### V

**Van Harten Carpentry**
705-344-1653

### W

**Wesley Seto Design**
416-538-3223

**West Elm**
westelm.com

**Whittington & Co.**
whittingtonco.ca

### Y

**Y & Co.**
ycocarpet.com

***through designers**

# #SAHSTYLECOUNCIL SURVEY

The results are in! Here's how our style council voted on this issue's topic:

# makeovers

## The next room on your MAKEOVER LIST

LIVING ROOM **26%**

BEDROOM **24%** | BATHROOM **19%**
KITCHEN **17%** | OTHER **14%**

## YOUR FAVOURITE *paint makeover*

A PIECE OF FURNITURE **43%**

THE FRONT DOOR **22%**

THE KITCHEN CABINETS **13%**

AN ACCENT WALL **12%**

YOUR OWN ARTWORK **10%**

## YOU LIKE USING PAINT FOR DIYS BECAUSE...

## YOUR FAVOURITE **PAINT COLOURS**

**57%** NO BIG SURPRISE: **NEUTRALS!**

**30%** GREENS AND BLUES, OF COURSE

**13%** THE REST (THEY DIDN'T EVEN COME CLOSE)

BE PART OF OUR **#SAHSTYLECOUNCIL**

TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY EVERY MONTH AT STYLEATHOME.COM/STYLECOUNCIL.

PRODUCER, ELAINE SONG; PHOTOGRAPHY, ROBIN STUBBERT (LIVING ROOM), DANIEL HARRISON (ARMCHAIR), RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PAINT LIDS)

# *The end* OF THE ROAD FOR GRIME.

**HIS MAGIC ERASER SCRUBS AWAY THE TOUGHEST GRIME WITH EASE.**

**FOR RIMS + INTERIOR + GLASS**

Wet before use. Not recommended for vehicle body, high gloss or upholstered surfaces. Use as directed.

**WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.**

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Katie Holmes

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*Based on mass-market facial moisturizer and cleanser dollar sales for past 12 months ending June 2014.

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